

**"SPRINGFIELD'S FIRST 100 YEARS"**

*By Chas. H. Love*



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At the request of Berlin Clinard owner and publisher of The Robertson County Times, I have written a resume of the history of Springfield from its founding until my arrival here on February 1, 1897.

In preparing this resume I have relied solely on Acts of the General Assembly of Tennessee; records in the offices of the county court clerk, circuit court clerk and register; numerous issues of old newspapers; histories in which mention is made of Springfield and Robertson County, and old documents in my possession. In doing this, I am able to state that what I have to say about Springfield and its citizens during the first 100 years of the town's existence is authentic. I have not repeated legends and traditions.

If the readers of The Robertson County Times derive any benefit or pleasure from reading these articles, it will be ample compensation to me for the time and labor used in preparing them. I have done this work because I wanted this generation to know something about those who preceded them in the best town of the best county I have ever known.

Robertson and Montgomery counties were within the area known as Tennessee County, North Carolina, when Tennessee was admitted to statehood in 1796.

The first session of the General Assembly of Tennessee convened at Knoxville on March 28, 1796. William Fort and Thomas Johnson represented Tennessee County in the House of Representatives, and both lived in that part of the county which was soon to become Robertson County.

April 9, 1796, the General Assembly passed an Act dividing Tennessee County. The eastern half was named Robertson, in honor of Gen. James Robertson, one of the founders of Nashville; the western half was named Montgomery, in memory of Col. John Montgomery, one of the founders of Clarksville, who was killed by Indians near Eddyville, Kentucky, on November 27, 1794.

This Act named commissioners to establish the line between the two counties; provided for a government for Robertson County, naming the Justices of the Peace; stated that the first session of the county court

should be held at the house of Jacob McCarty, and named commissioners to buy fifty acres of land "centrally" located, lay off lots and sell them, the proceeds to be used in erecting a courthouse, jail and stocks.—Chapter 30, Acts of Tennessee, 1796.

At no place in this Act was mentioned the name the town was to be called which was to be the seat of government of the new county of Robertson. This oversight must have been unsatisfactory to Messrs. Fort and Johnson, for on April 20, 1796, another Act was passed by the Legislature which provided that when the seat of government was located and established by the town commissioners the new town should be called Springfield.

The commissioners named in the first Act to locate the town were also named in the last Act. They were: John Donelson, William Johnson, Sr., James Norfleet, John Young and Samuel Crockett.

As directed in the Act creating the county, the following named Justices of the Peace met at the house of Jacob McCarty on July 18, 1796, and after taking the oath of office, organized the county court; Basel Boren, James Crabtree, Martin Duncan, William Fort, Zebulon Hobert, Benjamin Menees, William Miles, Isaac Phillips and John Phillips. William Fort was elected chairman.

The following county officers were elected by the court: Thomas Johnson, clerk; Hugh Henry, sheriff; Josiah Fort, trustee; Basel Boren, register; Henry Johnson, surveyor; Isaac Brown, corner and John Phillips, ranger.

Jacob McCarty, at whose house the first session of the county court of Robertson County was held, owned land on both sides of Sulphur Fork creek, less than two miles northwest of Springfield, but it is not now known on which side of the creek McCarty's house was located. The old Springfield and Port Royal road ran through McCarty's tract of more than 500 acres, which he secured by grant from the state of North Carolina. The road crossed Sulphur Fork within the boundaries of this land and continued in a westerly direction almost through its center from north to south.

The Springfield and Port Royal road left Springfield at what is now

the southwest corner of the High School campus on Fifth Avenue, West.

Jacob McCarty took a prominent part in the organization of the county until the location of the Town of Springfield. He left the county soon afterwards, settling in Montgomery County. In 1810 he had become a citizen of Stewart County. Did the failure of Commissioners Norfleet and Johnson to locate Springfield on his land cause McCarty to leave Robertson County? He was wealthy and his money and influence would have been of great help to the new county.

June 5, 1821, Henry Johnson, the county's first official surveyor, bought a large body of land from Benjamin Tucker which included within its boundaries several hundred acres of the original McCarty grant. Henry Johnson was the grandfather of Prof. Jake Johnson, who was prominent in the educational affairs of Springfield and Robertson County in his day. Prof. Johnson died in 1911. His widow, Mrs. Virginia Johnson and sons, William, Henry and Robert, reside on land which was a part of the Henry Johnson tract. The land on which Henry Johnson's large log residence stood, is now owned by Louis Rosson.

The October term, 1796, of the county court of Robertson County was held at the house of Benjamin McIntosh. This residence was immediately south of the original town boundaries, somewhere between what is now known as Seventh and Tenth Avenues. Several sessions of the court were held at McIntosh's house, after which a few meetings were held at the house of George Bell. The court held its last meeting at Bell's on Monday morning, July 15, 1799, when it adjourned for a quarter of an hour to meet in the log courthouse, which had just been completed. The Justices of the Peace present at this term of court were: William Fort, Zebulon Hobert, John Hutchison, Benjamin

Robertson County's first jail was a small log building and was completed in 1799. It stood on the Public Square and was south of the courthouse. In 1813 a larger jail was built of logs on the same location and this building was used until 1830, when a brick jail was built on



the northeast corner of South Main street and Seventh Avenue, East.

Goodspeed's history is in error when it states that the county's first two jails were on the lot now occupied by the United States Post-office building. This lot belonged to Archer Cheatham at the time of his death in 1822 and was given to his widow in the division of his property.

The county's log courthouse was replaced in 1819 by a brick building. Thomas Johnson, Benjamin Tucker, Archer Cheatham, James Sawyers and John Hutchison were appointed at the May term of the court of that year to sell the old building and erect a brick building on its site. The contract for the present courthouse was let in 1879 and the building was completed in 1881, and remodeled in 1929, as shown in my articles on "The Springfield I Have Known During the Last 46 Years."

The first mention of the town of Springfield in the official records of Robertson County appears in the minutes of the county court of April 16, 1798, which states that the "Court met pursuant to adjournment in the town of Springfield."

I have given this brief resume of the founding of Robertson County because it is interwoven with the beginning of the Town of Springfield, as the reader will soon learn.

When I came to Springfield I was told that the town derived its name from the spring at the head of Black Branch, and I had no reason to believe otherwise until I began a study of the town's history. Of course, I now know that the spring in question had nothing to do with the town's name, for when the General Assembly of 1796 designated Springfield as the name of the town which was to be the county seat, it was not known where the town would be located, other than it should be in the central part of the county.

The commissioners named to buy land, lay off the town of Springfield, erect a courthouse, jail and stocks, were slow in selecting a site for the new town. It is probable that they were unable to agree for some time as to the location, and when they did decide only two of the commissioners participated. These men were James Norfleet and John Young. I do not believe that the location of the town was finally

agreed upon until the early part of 1798, when arrangements were made to purchase 50 acres of land, after which the town site was surveyed.

My belief as to the date of the town's location is based upon the fact that on April 18, 1798, Thomas Johnson conveyed 20 acres of land to James Norfleet and John Young, Commissioners of the Town of Springfield. The boundaries in this deed are as follows:

"On the Black Branch waters of Sulphur Fork, it being part of a tract granted by the state of North Carolina to Thomas Johnson by patent bearing date 10th day of December, 1793, No. 128; beginning at a black oak, Karr's corner, runs east, crossing the Black Branch, 122 poles to a white oak; thence north 26 poles to a stake; thence west 126 poles to a stake; thence south with Karr's line to the beginning." The consideration was \$100.00.

The second tract of 30 acres was purchased by Commissioners Norfleet and Young from Archer Cheatham at practically the same time they bought the land from Johnson, the consideration being one hundred cents, but Cheatham did not make the commissioners a deed to the land until September 24, 1808, although the town had already been located on this 30 acres ten years before and deed made to purchasers of lots by Commissioners Norfleet and Young, as shown by the records in the Register's office of Robertson County.

Cheatham's deed to the Commissioners conveys "A certain tract or parcel of land containing 30 acres (be the same more or less), situate, lying and being in the county of Robertson, including part of the town of Springfield, all that part on the south agreeable to the plan of the town which is now included in said Archer Cheatham grant No. 120, issued by the Register of West Tennessee to said Cheatham for 357 acres, butted and bounded as follows: Beginning at a gum on the east side of the Black Branch, on the line of Thomas Johnson, which he has conveyed to the said commissioners, runs south with the line formerly Davis 38 poles to a cherry tree, the most southern boundary of said town; thence west with the said line of the town 126 poles to a stake; thence north 38 poles to a black oak,

said Thomas Johnson's corner; thence east with his line 126 poles to the beginning."

The Plan of the Town of Springfield included the Public Square, 66 lots and 10 streets. While the deeds to these tracts show that they extended east a short distance from Black Branch, the original plan of the town began at the east edge of an unnamed street (later named Beech street), the west edge of which was 272.25 feet east of what is now Willow street, and ran west to what is now Garner street, formerly known as Pond street.

Each of the 66 lots was 231 feet long and 90.75 feet wide. The streets now known as Fifth Avenue, Main, Willow, Locust, Oak and Walnut were 66 feet wide. Fourth Avenue, Seventh Avenue, Garner and Beech streets were 33 feet wide. In the original plan there was no street at the southwest corner of the public Square.

Each lot was sold for \$8.00. At the time of the sale the purchasers did not know where their lots would be located. After the lots were all sold a drawing was held to determine the location of the lot of each purchaser. Some of the purchasers of lots not desirably located did not go to the trouble of securing deeds. Years later the Town Commissioners made deeds for these lots to the heirs of assignees of the original purchasers, as shown by deeds on record.

The first deed to a lot in the new town bears date of July 17, 1798, and was for Lot No. 6, drawn by William Lusk, Jr. This lot faced Fifth Avenue, East, and ran north along the east side of Willow street 231 feet. Lot No. 26, on which the residence of Dr. J. E. Wilkison is now located, was deeded to Richard Mathews, Sr., by Commissioners Young and Norfleet on January 22, 1799. The following day deeds were made to Archer Cheatham, George Bell, Thomas Johnson and John Phillips.

In the deeds to the lots, Commissioners Norfleet and Young recite that, "Whereas, James Norfleet and John Young, Commissioners for the Town of Springfield, have laid off the town agreeable to an Act of the General Assembly of the state of Tennessee, and deposited a plan thereof in the Clerk's office of the County of Robertson."



If this plan or plat was deposited with the clerk of the county court, it was never recorded in that office. I do not believe the plan of the town was ever deposited with the clerk. In 1916, having learned that Mr. William Gaines, who lived in Robertson County, just across Sulphur Fork from Port Royal, had this plat in his possession, I visited Mr. Gaines and was shown the plat by him. Mr. Gaines was a descendant of James Norfleet. At that time Mr. Gaines refused to part with the plat long enough for me to have a copy made of it. He kept the plat in a secretary that had belonged to James Norfleet.

The credit of having preserved this plan or plat for posterity belongs to Hon. Albert L. Dorsey, who was later successful in borrowing it from Mr. Gaines for the purpose of having a copy made. The plat was copied by Hon. H. Clay True, II, and on August 13, 1937, Mr. Dorsey had the plan and legend of same recorded in Deed Book No. 88, pages 107 and 108, Register's office of Robertson County. The legend is in error in stating that Mr. Gaines is a descendant of Thomas Johnson.

The location, number and name of drawer of each lot embraced within the boundaries of the original plan of Springfield, as shown by the plan and corroborated by deeds of record, follows:

Fifth Avenue, South Side, going West: Lot No. 1, Benjamin Menees; 3, Archer Cheatham, Sr.; 5, James Gill. Intersection with Willow street. Lot No. 7, John Wilson; 9, John Tucker; 11, John Hutchison. Intersection with Public Square. Lot No. 15, George Bell. Intersection with Locust street. Lot No. 17, J. Pankey; 19, Eppa Lawson; 21, Robt. Carney. Intersection with Oak street. Lot No. 23, C. Simmons; 25, Jos. Wray; 27, C. Simmons. Intersection with Walnut street. Lot No. 29, L. Stark; 31, Martin Walton.

Fifth Avenue, North Side, going West: Lot No. 2, Joseph Dorris; 4, J. Carmack; 6, Wm. Lusk, Jr. Intersection with Willow street. Lot No. 8, Thos. Johnson; 10, George Briscoe; 12, A. Cheatham, Jr. Intersection with Main street. Lot No. 13, Archer Cheatham, Jr.; 14, Lucy Parker; 16, George Bell. Intersection with Locust street. Lot No. 18, George Bell; 20, Steve Brown; 22,

Thos. Stuart. Intersection with Oak street. Lot No. 24, Joseph Phillips; 26, Wm. Mathews, Sr.; 28, Benjamin Porter. Intersection with Walnut street. Lot No. 30, Wm. Karr; 32, J. Robertson.

Fourth Avenue, South side, going West: Lot No. 34, John Robbins; 36, Jas. Adams; 38, Anderson Cheatham. Intersection with Willow street. Lot No. 40, Wm. Connell; 42, Wm. Dorris; 44, Samuel Todd. Intersection with Main street. Lot 46, Hugh Henry; 48, Lucy Parker; 50, Nelson Walton. Intersection with Locust street. Lot No. 52, Elias Fort; 54, Samuel Todd; 56, Thos. Stuart. Intersection with Oak street. Lot No. 58, Wm. Conrad; 60, Nicholas Conrad; 62, Martin Walton. Intersection with Walnut street. Lot No. 64, John Pinkey; 66, Jipi Roscoe.

Seventh Avenue, North Side going West: Lot No. 33, J. Darden; 35, A. Rounsavall; 37, Nathan Clark. Intersection with Willow street. Lot No. 39, Wm. Haggard; 41, Abraham Pinkey; 43, Jacob Young. Intersection with Main street. Lot No. 45, Benjamin McIntosh; 47, John Phillips; 49, Thos. Smith. Intersection with Locust street. Lot No. 51, J. Darden; 53, Thos. Johnson; 55, Richard Nuckols. Intersection with Oak street. Lot No. 57, Samuel Dorris; 59, Richard Mathews, Sr.; 61, Wm. Connell. Intersection with Walnut street. Lot No. 63, Archer Cheatham, Sr.; 65, Wm. Tucker.

It will be noted that in the original plan of the Town of Springfield all of the lots faced streets running from east to west. The Public Square in the original plan was 11 poles wide and 14 poles long, which is its size today.

The commission appointed by the Legislature of 1796 to lay off the town of Springfield, buy and sell land for the purpose of erecting public buildings for Robertson county functioned for more than 30 years. From time to time additional members were added to the commission by legislative enactment, to take the place of members who had died or resigned.

December 29, 1798 Thos. Johnson, Archer Cheatham, Jr., Lias Fort and George Bell were added to the commission, while on October 24, 1811, Anderson Cheatham, John Hutchison, Charles H. Pickering, Benjamin Porter, William Adams and Benja-

min Tucker were made members. Other commissioners were added at a later date.

These commissioners had no voice in the internal affairs of Springfield, their sole duties being to buy and sell real estate for the town's welfare.

There were two Archers in the Cheatham family that came to Tennessee county and settled in or near what is now Springfield. The younger was the son of the elder. For years I was confused as to which of these men sold the Town Commissioners part of the land on which Springfield was located. The deed from Archer Cheatham to Commissioners Norfleet and Young was not executed by him until ten years after the town was located. This fact proves that grantor was Archer Cheatham, Jr., and not his father, who died in 1799.

Both Archer Cheatham, Sr., and Archer, Jr., bought lots when those in the original plan were offered for sale. The lots drawn by the elder Cheatham were Nos 3 and 63. Lot No. 3 is on the south side of Fifth Avenue, East, being one lot east of the lot on which the Robertson County Jail is now located. Lot No. 63 is on the southwest corner of Seventh Avenue, West, and Walnut street, now occupied by Associated Funeral Homes. Archer Cheatham, Sr., was in good circumstances for his day and generation.

Archer Cheatham, Jr., drew Lots Nos. 12 and 13. Lot No. 12 is now occupied by The Colonial Hotel and Hancock's Loose Floor, while all of the buildings on the west side of North Main street between the Public Square and the elementary school grounds are on Lot No. 13.

The General Assembly of 1806 granted a charter to Liberty Academy, to be established in Robertson county, and named John Baker, Sr., Thomas Johnson, Josiah Fort, James Norfleet and John Coleman as trustees of the institution. If the trustees acted in establishing a school at that time, nothing can be found in the official records of the county to establish the fact.

The records of the county disclose that on March 28, 1811, Archer Cheatham deeded to the Trustees of Liberty Academy, "In consideration of the encouragement he wishes for the promotion of Literature, and the



sum of one dollar to him in hand paid, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, one acre, it being the place near the town of Springfield where Sam P. Howard, the present teacher now lives, including the buildings, school house, etc." Just how long Howard had taught in this house is not known, but he bears the distinction of being the first teacher mentioned in the official records of Robertson county.

In the same year that Archer Cheatham deeded the Howard school building to the trustees of Liberty Academy, a new board of trustees was appointed, as follows: Charles Braden, John Hutchison, Anderson Cheatham, William Adams, Ethelbert C. Williams, William Armstrong, William Connell, James Gamble, John B. Blackwell, James A. Bryan, Ephriam Payne, and Jack E. Turner.

Howard continued as head teacher for a long term of years. In 1830 a brick building replaced the frame. For more than 60 years Liberty Academy existed. It was at first a mixed school, but after Howard left, the school taught only males for a long term of years.

Jerome Loring was principal of the academy for years. He was a noted teacher and at one time had pupils from 13 states.

In 1851 Prof. J. M. Wines was principal of Liberty Academy, while John B. Hutcheson and John S. Henry were principals in 1860. Prof. J. V. Johnson was principal of the school in 1868.

Liberty Academy stood near the southeast corner of Tenth Avenue and Hill street. The African Methodist Episcopal Church which fronts on Hill street is located where Liberty Academy stood. Tenth avenue was formerly Academy street.

January 18, 1815, Thomas Johnson, John Hutchison and Archer Cheatham, Town Commissioners, realizing the necessity for a tanyard in Springfield, entered into a contract with William B. Gorham in which they agreed to deed Gorham at a later date the town lands lying on the north side of what is now Fifth Avenue, East, and running east from what was then the eastern boundary of the original town plan to a point east of Black Branch, for a consideration of \$10.00 if Gorham

erected a tanyard on this land and operated same.

Gorham carried out his part of the agreement in good faith, but he waited a long time for his deed, which was executed on May 16, 1834, by George C. Conrad, J. W. Ferguson, Archer Kirby, D. P. Braden and John Hutchison, Town Commissioners. This deed calls for 2 1/2 acres of land lying east of the town of Springfield, "bounded on the west by the town of Springfield, by the public road on the south, on the east and north by the lands of William C. Conrad and the heirs of John L. Cheatham, decd., containing 2 1/2 acres, be the same more or less, it being part of the public land belonging to the town of Springfield, not laid off in lots and streets, and specifically decreed for a tanyard, which is now occupied as such and known as Gorham's Tanyard."

Gorham sold his tanyard to D. Clark, who ran it until May 15, 1843, when it was bought by C. and H. H. Orndorff, and for 101 years this property remained in the Orndorff family, as shown in my articles on "The Springfield I Have Known During the Last 46 Years."

Archer Cheatham, Jr., who was given the honorary title of "Colonel," died in 1822. He was a public spirited citizen and his death was a real blow to the progress of Springfield. Col. Cheatham was rich, owning thousands of acres of land in Tennessee and Kentucky and 69 slaves. He died in his 52nd year.

Col. Cheatham's slaves were divided among his wife and 10 heirs by a commission appointed by the county court. January 7, 1823, the commission reported to the court that they had made the division by dividing the slaves into 11 lots, and these lots were drawn by the heirs. The commission reported the value of the slaves to be \$27,450.

As I read the names and descriptions of the negroes in those lots I could not refrain from offering a silent prayer for the abolishment of human slavery on this continent before my generation was born.

H. Johnson, surveyor, Mathew Powell, William Adams, John Ryan, Joseph Johnson, Samuel Farmer, Joel Ragsdale, Benjamin Elliott, Jacob Fiser, Josiah Fort, Charles Cobbs, Samuel McClurkin and Solomon Payne were appointed a com-

mittee by the county court to divide Col. Cheatham's lands and lay off homestead and dower for his widow.

This commission reported to the court on May 13, 1823, that it had set aside the realty that was to go to Mrs. Martha Cheatham, which included the lot on which the mansion house was located, lots 34, 36, 49 and 51 in the original plan of Springfield, and several tracts of land, one of which contained 588 acres. The large tract included within its boundaries all of that part of Springfield which now lies east of a point about half way between North Main street and Black Branch and north of Fourth Avenue, East. It also included all of that part of the town which lies east of the original town plan, and extended south as far as Eleventh Avenue, East. Wm. C. Conrad later bought from Mrs. Cheatham that part of her 588 acre tract lying south of the Gallatin road (Fifth Avenue, East).

There were three boys and seven girls in Col. Cheatham's family. These boys were Richard, John L. and George W. The first two named played a prominent part in the affairs of the town and county, following their father's death.

Mrs. Martha Cheatham did not remain a widow long. In 1825 she married James Cook. Believe it or not, Springfield was not free from rumor-mongers in those days. For shortly after the Cook-Cheatham nuptials the report spread throughout the county that before her marriage Mrs. Cook had transferred title in her lands and negroes to other persons, to keep Cook from sharing in her estate should she die first.

These rumors became so persistent that the good lady deemed a public denial necessary. There being no newspaper in which she could publish such a denial, Mrs. Cook prepared a statement in which she deplored and denied the rumors in circulation, had her signature to this statement witnessed and P. Gunn and Wm. Morgan on January 31, 1826, and on the same date it was recorded in Deed Book S, page 274, in the Register's office of Robertson county, where the curious and doubters could read and discuss it to their heart's content.

If denials of every false rumor put in circulation in Springfield in these days were made through the official



pages of the record books in the Register's office, Mrs. Annie B. Williams, the efficient Register would need several extra typists and an additional record room.

James Cook entered the War of 1812 as first lieutenant of Capt. John Crane's company of Robertson countians. This company was in Gen. Jackson's army and participated in the battles of Talledega, Horseshoe and New Orleans. Cook was in command of the company at New Orleans on January 8, 1815, when Gen. Jackson's forces destroyed the British army under Packenham. John Ferguson and Daniel Clark, both Springfield men, were with Cook in these battles. Cook also commanded a company in the Seminole War of 1818. One of the lieutenants was Cornelius Carmack, of Springfield, said to have been an ancestor of Senator Edward Carmack, who was killed by Robin Cooper on Seventh Avenue, North, Nashville, in November, 1908.

Capt. Cook engaged in the mercantile business in Springfield when he returned from the Seminole war, and the records show he was so engaged for a number of years.

At the February term, 1824, of the Robertson County Court, John Vanhook, administrator of the estate of Richard Vanhook, dec'd., made settlement of the estate with the clerk, and among the sums he reported as collected was an item showing he had "received from Capt. James Cook \$255.36½ for the sale of tobacco at New Orleans."

In the early decades of the nineteenth century many of the products of Robertson county's farms were carried by flatboats from Port Royal to the New Orleans market. The Vanhook farm was about eight miles from Port Royal. This item proves that tobacco for commercial purposes was produced in Robertson county as early as 1822 or 1823.

George Bell was Springfield's first field, but I have been unable to fix merchant. He drew Lot No. 15 when the drawing was held for the lots in the Plan of the Town of Springfield. He erected on this lot a log storehouse and dwelling and was occupying the property when on July 15, 1799, the county court met there and immediately adjourned to meet in the courthouse 15 minutes later. Lot 15 embraced all of the land between

the Public Square and Locust street.

In December, 1805, George Bell sold his property on the west side of the Public Square to Perry Cohea, the consideration being \$600.00.

Lucy Parker built a tavern in 1798 on Lot No. 14, on which now stand the Cobbs and O'Brien building and the Albion Hotel Apartments. Lucy Parker was only in business at this stand a short time, as James Doherty, a lawyer, owned the property in 1800, in which year it was sold by order of the county court to satisfy judgments against Doherty in favor of George Bell and Thomas Tabot.

In 1800 John Pankey served meals at his ordinary, which was located on the corner now occupied by the Presbyterian Church. In 1801 John Tucker ran an ordinary in Springfield, but I have been unable to fix the location of his building.

Archer Cheatham was in the mercantile business in Springfield in the early 1800's, as was William Maddox who had operated a store on the southwest corner of South Main street and the Public Square prior to 1813. Maddox sold his property, which was Lot No. 45 of the Plan of the Town of Springfield, to Nicholas Conrad, but before the deed was executed both Maddox and Conrad died. Maddox had moved to Davidson county. His administrators, John Davis and Polly Maddox, on May 20, 1813, executed a deed to the property to William C., Mary, George C. and Sidney Conrad, the consideration being \$1,000.00. A brick storehouse was later built on this lot by the Conrads and the business remained in the Conrad family until after the death of George C. Conrad in 1849.

January 16, 1817, John Hutchison sold Anderson Cheatham Lots Nos. 5, 7 and 11 of the plan of Springfield with improvements thereon for \$2,000.00. Later Cheatham bought Lot No. 9. This gave him a frontage along the east side of the Public Square from Fifth Avenue of 231 feet, and a frontage on the south side of Fifth Avenue, East, from the Public Square to Willow street of 272.25 feet. Cheatham built a brick residence on this property, believed to have been the first brick dwelling erected in the town. There was already a storehouse on Lot No. 11 which stood where the First National Bank building now stands.

Anderson Cheatham was a brother

of the second Archer and was prominent in the affairs of Springfield and Robertson county in his own right during the first 40 years of the town's existence. He served one term as sheriff of the county, 1810-12, and six terms as representative in the General Assembly, 1801-07 and 1825-31. Mr. Cheatham's daughter, Nancy, married Thomas Summers. Summers located near Pleasant Grove, in the eastern section of the county. In 1845 Anderson Cheatham gave Mrs. Summers 300 acres of land in the Pleasant Grove section, the consideration being love and affection, and that he was to be provided for as long as he lived by his daughter's family. L. P. Cheatham and James Shannon were named trustees to see that the terms of the deed were complied with by the grantee. Anderson Cheatham was buried near Pleasant Grove but I do not know the location of his grave.

Between 1817 and 1820 Springfield welcomed a number of new comers who engaged in the merchantile business.

July 2, 1817, John Stump and John S. Cox, of Davidson county, bought from Anderson Cheatham 60 feet off of the south end of Lot No. 11 and immediately built on the south side of their lot a brick storehouse, which they operated under the firm name of Stump & Cox. This was Springfield's first brick business house.

July 18, 1818, Stump & Cox sold 28 feet off of the north side of their lot to Herbert Harwell, B. B. Trousdale, Wm. H. Hicks, Edward D. Hardaway and James Hicks, doing business under the firm name of B. B. Trousdale & Co., and this firm erected a storehouse on their lot. January 11, 1819, Harwell became the sole owner of the business, paying partners \$3,000.00.

November 6, 1818, Daniel Harton bought 35 feet of Lot 11 from Anderson Cheatham, lying immediately north of the lot on which Harwell's store was located, and on the same date Harton sold Harwell 10 feet off of the south side of his lot. Harton erected a frame storehouse on his lot, later buying an additional foot from Cheatham in order that he might have a passage way on the north side of his building.

March 30, 1819, Anderson Cheatham sold Jacob Fiser 36 feet of Lot No. 11, running north from Harton's



line. The consideration was \$780.00, there being a small building on the lot.

The buildings of Stump & Cox, Herbert Harwell, Daniel Harton and Jacob faced the east side of the Public Square and stood where now stand the buildings occupied by Tucker's Fashion Shop, Farmers Supply Co., Shannon Drug Co., Downey & Jones, Piggly-Wiggly Store and the south half of the lot on which stands the building occupied by McElroy & Co.

The building occupied by the Piggly-Wiggly Store was erected by Mr. George W. Davis. Work started on this building in 1872 and it was completed the following year. The brick used in the building's construction were made at Mr. Davis' kiln, which was located on the land included in the block bounded by Fourth and Fifth Avenues, West, Garner and White streets.

Stump and Cox bought several lots when they came to Springfield, among them being Lots Nos. 41 and 43, which they purchased from Archer Cheatham. On August 12, 1818, David Slater and John W. Clark bought the north end of Lot No. 43 and erected a storehouse where now stands the J. C. McMurphy building.

By 1830 Richard Cheatham and Conrad Bros. (the latter firm succeeded Conrad & Edwards) practically had a monopoly on the town's mercantile business, as the firms of Stump & Cox, Slater & Clark, Herbert Harwell and Daniel Harton had retired from business.

John S. Cox was the first to go, his partner buying him out. Daniel Harton left in 1823, going to Jackson, Tennessee. Herbert Harwell (sometimes spelled Harbert in the records) was a rich Virginian who came to Robertson county and made large investments in land. He later returned to Virginia, but a nephew, Richard M. Harwell, remained here for several years. Richard Harwell went from here to McNairy county, Tennessee.

The first grist mill near Springfield was erected on Sulphur Fork by Archer Cheatham. This mill was later bought by John W. Gorham, who operated it as late as 1850.

Archer Cheatham became the owner of Anderson Cheatham's brick residence, with a frontage of 93 feet on the Public Square on May 15,

1821. At Archer's death Gen. Richard Cheatham became the owner. In 1834 Dr. Thos. J. Ryan was living in this brick dwelling, and on May 25th of that year Dr. Ryan bought the property, the consideration being \$5,000.00. This lot also had a storehouse on it.

The Ryan property was bought by Joakim and Allie Green in the late 1840's and they erected a brick storehouse on the First National Bank corner and did business there under the firm name of J. & A. G. Green until the death of Allie Green in 1856. The business continued after the death of Allie Green under the firm name of Green, Payne & Green, the partners being Joakim Green, Perry Payne and Milton Green.

Goodspeed's History states that Thornton A. Cook was the first lawyer to locate in Springfield and that his practice was so limited he had to repair clocks and watches for a living. I believe this to be a mistake.

The minutes of the county court of Robertson county show that Samuel Donelson was the first County Solicitor. Donelson resigned at the July term, 1797, of the court and Isham A. Parker was named as his successor. Parker served until the October term, 1798, when he resigned. The court named Joseph Herndon as Parker's successor.

I do not believe the county court would have as solicitor a lawyer who did not reside in the county, and it is my belief that Donelson, Parker and Herndon lived in or near Springfield during the time they served the county.

The records further show that Robert Searcy was admitted to practice law by the county court at its April term, 1797, and that William P. Anderson and Thomas Stuart were admitted at the January term, 1798. Stuart was a participant in the drawing for lots in the Plan of the Town of Springfield and drew Lots Nos. 22 and 56. Lot No. 22 is the northeast corner of Fifth Avenue, West, and Oak street, while Lot No. 56 is the southeast corner of Fourth Avenue, West, and Oak street.

James Doherty, John C. Hamilton and Isaac McNutt were admitted to practice in 1800. Thomas Stuart and John C. Hamilton both later served as Judges of the Superior Court of Law and Equity, their division in-

cluding the counties of Dickson, Montgomery, Robertson and Stewart.

George Cunningham was admitted to the bar in 1812 and Patrick Darby in 1813. Darby was disbarred in 1819 for unprofessional conduct.

Dr. Levi Noyes was the first physician to locate in Springfield. He had resided in the county for several years before moving to town. July 12, 1803, Jacob Young sold Dr. Noyes his house and lot for \$1,000.00. The Young property was Lot No. 43, facing Seventh Avenue, East, and running north with Main street 231 feet. On this lot are now located the buildings occupied by McCord & Harris, Henry & Bell, Commerce Union Bank, Western Auto Supply Co., J. C. Penny Co., Sprouse Bros. Co. and J. C. McMurphy & Co.

Dr. Noyes did not remain in Springfield long, for on February 5, 1805, he sold his residential property to John Bustard and William Eastin, of Nashville, who are described in the deed as "merchants and carpenters." At the same time Dr. Noyes sold Bustard & Eastin another lot "whereon the said Noyes' cotton gin and press stands." This is the first mention of a cotton gin I have been able to find in the county records. The number of the lot on which the gin and press were located is not given, the deed stating it to be in the plan of the town of Springfield, but I have been able to locate this lot by the process of elimination.

In 1802 Dr. Noyes bought from the original drawers Lots Nos. 8, 10, 34, 38, 39, 40, 42 and 44. In 1804 Dr. Noyes sold all of these lots except No. 39 to William Eastin. At the time Dr. Noyes sold Bustard & Eastin the lots on which his residence and cotton gin were located he disposed of all of the real estate he owned in Springfield. Lot No. 39 was the northwest corner of Seventh Avenue, East, and Willow street. The cotton gin and press were on this lot.

It is not known where Dr. Noyes went when he left Springfield. It is possible he returned to the country; or, like others among the restless spirits who were early settlers here, he may have resumed his journey of "following the star of empire westward."

I am unable to tell from the official records the length of time the cotton gin and press were operated



by Bustard & Eastin.

Dr. Archibald Thomas came to Springfield from Virginia in 1805. He served as surgeon under Gen. Jackson in the Creek Indian war and in the war of 1812-15, being in the battle of New Orleans. Dr. Thomas returned to Springfield after the war and resumed his practice. He was one of the county's leading citizens during his long and active life. He died in 1852. His monument is one of the few left standing in the old cemetery.

Dr. R. K. Hicks came to Springfield in 1828 and entered Liberty Academy, under Jerome Loring, the noted teacher. Dr. Hicks graduated in 1831 and taught in the school for two years. He then studied medicine and in 1835 began the practice of his profession, associating himself with Dr. Archibald Thomas. Their office was on the west side of the Public Square, on a lot on which the 638 Tire Co. building is now located. Dr. Hicks bought Dr. Thomas' interest in their office building in 1841, and occupied it for several years. Later this building was owned and occupied by Drs. Thomas and George W. Menees. Like Dr. Thomas, Dr. Hicks was a man of wide influence in the affairs of the town and county during the 54 years he practiced his profession in Springfield.

Other Springfield physicians of wide influence in the 1830's and 1840's were Drs. Thomas J. Ryan and J. M. Jones. Dr. Ryan died in 1847 and is buried in the old cemetery.

In 1830 Johnson's grist mill was in operation on Carr's Creek, at the ford where the Nashville and Springfield road crossed the creek.

The first bridge erected across Sulphur Fork Creek, on the Springfield and Russellville road, was authorized by the county court in 1830 and construction was begun in August of that year. This was a wooden bridge with a roof over it. In the flood of 1865 this bridge was swept from its abutments and a new bridge of the same pattern was later erected. The second wooden bridge was replaced by the present concrete bridge.

The Town of Springfield was first incorporated by an Act of the General Assembly passed on October 22, 1819. This Act provided that the sheriff of Robertson county should hold an election on the third Monday

in January, 1820, and on the same day in each and every year thereafter, to elect seven aldermen. The Aldermen were to take the oath of office on Saturday following their election and organize by electing one of their number mayor.

This Act did not mention the boundaries of the town, but did state that "owners of land lying adjoining said town on the south are authorized to lay off and sell lots, not to exceed 100, said lots to be part of Springfield when laid off." It is not known if the failure of the author of the Act to include the town's boundaries in it, prevented the corporation from functioning. This failure was evidently due to the fact that it was taken for granted that the boundaries of the original Town Plan were understood and were to be the boundaries of the incorporated town. Seventh Avenue was the southern boundary, as heretofore shown, of the original plan of the town, and the land to be laid off as lots was south of that avenue. The Cheathams and Conrads owned this land and it was more than 30 years after the passage of this Act before it was laid off into lots and offered for sale.

Another Act of the incorporation of Springfield was passed by the General Assembly on November 14, 1825, which provided for a Board of Commissioners, as follows: John Hutchison, Richard Cheatham, George C. Conrad, John L. Cheatham, John W. Ferguson, Samuel King, Pinckney Gunn, Solomon Payne, and Daniel Braden. The commissioners had the power to draft ordinances, levy and collect taxes, and do all other things necessary for the town's welfare. It is to be presumed that this commission functioned.

On December 23, 1845, the General Assembly again dealt with the incorporation of Springfield, by passing an Act containing practically all the provisions of the Act passed October 22, 1819, but this Act named the boundaries of the town, as follows: "Beginning at the upper town spring, running west so as to include the residence of (the late) Gen. Richard Cheatham, thence north so as to include residence of Dr. J. M. Jones, thence east to the Black Branch at a point where the garden fence of Hiram H. Orndorff crosses

said branch, below the tanyard, thence up the branch with its meanders to the beginning."

The Richard Cheatham residence was on the location of the residence of the late Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Simmons, opposite the southern end of Walnut street. Dr. J. M. Jones lived in a house that stood on the north side of Fourth Avenue, West. His lot ran north 18 poles from the Avenue and extended from Walnut to Garner street. Dr. Jones sold his property to R. A. Davis a short time after it was included within the corporate limits of Springfield. Mr. Davis sold it to E. M. Reynolds, a merchant, in June, 1848, and in 1857 it was purchased by Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Peck. Mrs. Mary Peck, widow of W. T. Peck, lived on the land bought from Reynolds when I came to Springfield in 1897.

The charter of 1845 was amended on March 2, 1854, when provision was made for the election of seven aldermen bi-annually instead of annually. The mayor was elected by the aldermen for a term of two years. This Act gave the board of mayor and aldermen authority to enlarge the boundaries of the town. In 1881 the charter was again amended and the town divided into wards. The Act provided for the election of the mayor by the people for a two-year term.

I regret that the minutes of the Town of Springfield have not been preserved. At this time no records prior to Mayor W. R. Sadler's administration are to be found in the city hall or elsewhere. It is known that the records of the town were destroyed during the civil war period, but the records, since that time should have been preserved. Some provision should be made for the safe keeping of the minutes of the city government and officials charged with this duty should be held strictly accountable for the records placed in their keeping.

The records of the county disclose the names of three men who served as mayor of Springfield between 1845 and the civil war. These men were John E. Garner, M. V. Fyke and G. W. Davis. There were others but their names are now lost to posterity.

Goodspeed's History gives the mayors of the town from 1865 until 1886 as follows: John E. Garner G. W.



Davis, J. W. Judd, B. M. Cheatham, R. H. Murphey, Jr., J. H. Webber, W. W. Garrett, W. T. Peck, H. C. Crunk and W. R. Sadler. Mr. Sadler served until 1890, when Jas. T. Henry was elected and served two terms. Mr. Henry was succeeded by H. T. Stratton who was mayor when I came to Springfield.

Rhea Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons, was organized at Port Royal on June 24, 1812, under a dispensation from the Grand Masters of Tennessee and North Carolina. The lodge's charter members were: John Baker, Jack E. Turner, James Norfleet, G. T. Ware, Elijah Hughs, J. D. Henry, H. Ryan and David Gould. The lodge received its charter as Western Star Lodge No. 9 in 1813. A new charter was granted the lodge on October 1, 1814, by the Grand Master of Tennessee.

Western Star Lodge No. 9 moved its headquarters from Port Royal to Springfield on November 22, 1817, according to Goodspeed's History, and held its first meeting at the home of Daniel Horton, and continued to meet at the homes of its members until a suitable lodge hall could be rented. No Daniel Horton lived in Springfield in 1817, but Daniel Harton did.

The records in the Register's office show that Daniel Harton purchased Lot No. 21 of the Plan of Springfield, on which there was a residence, from Robert B. Carney on December 18, 1815. Lot No. 21 is the southeast corner of Fifth Avenue, West, and Oak street. It is a certainty that the dwelling in which was held the first meeting in Springfield of Western Star Lodge No. 9 was located on this lot.

Daniel Harton sold Lot No. 21, on which he had lived for more than seven years, to Bryson B. Trousdale and John Finn on February 1, 1823, for \$1,100.00, but the deed was not recorded until 1828. Subsequent owners of the property were Joshua D. Cloud, William Price, Richard Powell and E. M. Reynolds.

In 1858 Mr. G. W. Davis bought Lot No. 21 and erected thereon the residence now occupied by the children of Mrs. Georgia Bell. Mr. Davis occupied this residence from the time of its completion until his death in 1898, and his wife, Mrs. Elizabeth Connell Davis, remained there until her death in 1909. The property

then descended to Mrs. Bell, who with her husband, Mr. C. A. Bell, and their children, had resided with the Davis family for many years. Upon the death of Mrs. Bell in 1941 the property descended to her children, Mrs. Jane Hardison, Mrs. Will Jarrett, Miss Mary Lou and Rader Bell, who occupy it with their aunt, Miss Ella Davis. It will be seen that this property has been the home of Miss Davis during 86 of the 91 years of her eventful life.

For several years prior to 1853 Western Star Lodge had occupied the upper story of a brick storehouse then owned by John F. Coutts, which stood where Tucker's Fashion Shop is now located on the east side of the Public Square, and now known as No. 520 Main street, and being the same building erected by Stump & Cox in 1818.

June 4, 1853, as shown by deed recorded in Book No. 8, page 81, Register's office of Robertson county, Mr. Coutts sold an undivided one-half interest in his building to the lodge. The deed recites: "To officers and members of Western Star Lodge No. 9, Free and Accepted Masons, and their successors as said officers and members, to-wit: John E. Garner, worshipful master; Miles S. Draughton, senior warden; H. H. Orndorff, junior warden; Jno. F. Coutts, secretary; Edward S. Hockersmith, treasurer; Thomas Menees, senior deacon; John B. Presise, tyler, and to Daniel P. Braden, Robert K. Hicks, John W. Gordon, Hardy C. Draughton, George W. Davis, John L. Yates, William T. Smith, Miles Draughton, James A. Long, Ed L. Minter, Alfred Pike, Benj. F. Payne, Miles A. Carter, Jno. Woodard, James L. Strickland, Lemuel J. Henry, Monroe Cheatham, James H. Milliken, Harrison M. Pitt, Joel A. King, Joseph Willis, George H. McNeely, Wm. F. Long, Pleasant Wright, John P. Stark, William Villines, William P. Mathews, Augustin Cook, Wm. D. Baldwin, Jas. S. Mulloy, Henry H. Kirk, L. R. Denniss and Franklin R. Gooch."

September 4, 1854, John F. Coutts sold his one-half interest in the brick building to E. M. Reynolds, who engaged in the mercantile business there. Later Reynolds sold to H. H. Kirk. On November 28, 1859, Kirk's interest was bought by Western Star Lodge, the consideration being \$650, as shown by deed recorded in Book

No. 11, page 215, Register's office of Robertson county. The officers of the lodge at the time were: C. Grymes, worshipful master; B. H. Anderson, senior warden; J. Darden, junior warden; R. C. Anderson, treasurer; G. W. Davis, secretary; G. W. Menees, senior deacon; J. B. Clough junior deacon and A. M. Langford, tyler.

Western Star Lodge No. 9 bought the lot on which its present lodge hall is located, on the west side of the Public Square, on January 23, 1869, and the building was completed in 1870 at a cost of \$10,000.00.

May 15, 1856, D. P. Braden gave his daughter, Mrs. Ann Eliza Murphey, wife of Col. R. H. Murphey, the lot on which the Masonic building stands, which faced 90 feet on the Public Square and ran back to Locust street. At that time there was a small office building on the lot. The property was conveyed to Col. Murphey in trust for Mrs. Murphey and her children. The deed to the officers and members of Western Star Lodge was signed by Mr. Braden, Colonel and Mrs. Murphey, and recited that the \$500.00 received for the property was to be invested in some good bond or stock.-Deed Book No. 14, pages 335 and 336, Register's office of Robertson County.

W. B. Adams & Co., merchants, were the first tenants of the ground floor of the Masonic building and remained at that location for several years.

After the death of Archer Cheatham his sons, Richard and John L., became active in the affairs of the town and county. In fact, so active that with George C. and William C. Conrad, they retarded the growth of Springfield for many years.

The Cheathams and the Conrads owned practically all of the land surrounding the narrow confines of the original town, as well as large holdings in the town. There had to be four first-class funerals before Springfield began to grow.

John L. Cheatham died in 1833. He served as a member of the Legislature. He built Springfield's first brick hotel, then called a tavern, on the northeast corner of North Main street and Fifth Avenue, East, where the Colonial Hotel now stands, and was residing there with his family at the time of his death.



John L. Cheatham also owned all of the land between the north line of the old cemetery and Sulphur Fork Creek. Main street, then called the Russellville road, was the eastern boundary of this tract of land, while an alley which ran along the west side of the cemetery was the western boundary. He also owned other lands in the town and county.

John L. Cheatham's estate was not disposed of until his three children, Archer, William S. and Elizabeth, became of age. In 1851 these children sold the hotel property, then called the Brick Tavern, to Thomas M. Henry. They had sold the tract of land lying between the cemetery and Sulphur Fork to Miles Kirby and J. E. Winfield in 1849. Winfield served Robertson county as county clerk. Elizabeth Cheatham married Jacob L. Golliday, who served several terms in Congress, if my memory is correct.

T. M. Henry sold the hotel property to J. A. Payne in April, 1853. Payne died shortly thereafter and his widow, Sarah, became the owner of the hotel. In 1860 Col. D. D. Holman became the owner, naming it "The Cheatham House." After the fall of Ft. Donelson at Dover, in the early part of 1862, a regiment of the Union army moved into Springfield and from that time until the close of the war The Cheatham House was the headquarters of the Union forces stationed in this county.

Col. Holman again took charge of the hotel after the war. Mr. T. M. Henry again became the owner of the property on April 10, 1867, and operated it until the fall of 1870, when he sold it to Harrison, Pepper & Co., a firm composed of H. V. Harrison, Young Pepper and J. W. Nuckolls.

There was a small frame hotel building on the south side of the Public Square that had been owned successively by Col. D. P. Braden and E. S. Hockersmith. William Villines owned this property in 1869, and on April 9th of that year sold it to T. M. Henry for \$1,605.00. Adjoining this hotel building on the west was a brick building. On January 23, 1871, Mr. Henry bought this brick building from Young Pepper, the price being \$1,500.00. Mr. Henry then opened a hotel in these two buildings, using the name of "The Cheatham House." The Springfield

Record had occupied the frame building and when Mr. Henry purchased it The Record moved to the building on the west side of South Main street now occupied by Jordan S. and Sam Brown.

Mr. Henry did not remain in the hotel business long on the south side of the Public Square, for on March 26, 1872, he sold his hotel property to Judge John Woodard. The deed was signed by Mr. Henry and his wife, Mrs. M. F. Henry, and the property was described as follows: "The house and lot in and upon which we now reside, beginning at northwest corner of house and lot of John S. Hart & Co., thence west 52 feet to Miles Kirby's lot; thence south 108 1-2 feet to alley; thence east about 52 feet to Hart's line, thence north about 108 1-2 feet to the beginning."

Mr. Henry repurchased the property from Judge Woodard on July 1, 1876, and was engaged in business at that stand when the south side of the Public Square was destroyed by fire on the night of March 3, 1882. Mr. Henry rebuilt and remained in business at that location until his retirement in 1897. In 1900 the Henry building was destroyed by another fire and on the site of the burned building were erected the buildings now owned and occupied by the First Federal Savings & Loan Association, Dr. J. E. Wilkison and Hon. Chas. Willett.

Young Pepper sold his interest in the hotel property his firm had purchased from T. M. Henry to R. H. Murphey, Jr., on January 1, 1873. Mr. Pepper died in that year. He was a half brother of the late Col. W. W. Pepper. This hotel property was later bought by Judge John Woodard and was operated for years as the Springfield Hotel by various lessees.

M. V. Harrison, of the firm of Harrison, Pepper & Co., was engaged in the wholesale whiskey business in Springfield for many years. He built the large two-story brick dwelling at 1504 Batts Boulevard, known as the Mathews place and now owned by Col. G. B. Sprouse. R. T. Mathews, who was in the brick business in Springfield for a long term of years, bought the Harrison dwelling in 1879 and it remained in the Mathews family for nearly 50 years.

Springfield's first Methodist Episcopal Church was erected in 1837. On February 15th of that year Dr. Archibald Thomas, for the consideration of \$50.00 deeded to D. P. Braden, F. J. Ryan, J. Hutchison, G. C. Conrad, H. Hart, T. Martin, J. England, and their trustees in trust, Lot No. 57 of the original Plan of the Town of Springfield. The deed recited, "In trust that they shall erect and build, or caused to be erected and built thereon, a house or place of worship for the use of the members of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States of America." This deed is recorded in Book No. 3, page 144, Register's office of Robertson county.

A frame house of worship, which fronted on Spring street (now Seventh Avenue, West) was erected by the trustees, which stood until the late 1850's when another frame was erected on the same site. This building was destroyed by fire in 1882. A brick building which fronted on Oak street was then erected and stood until 1916, when the present handsome edifice was erected on the site of the old building.

A short time after the Methodists had erected a church building in Springfield the Cumberland Presbyterians did likewise, but their building was of brick. This church fronted on Locust street and forms part of the Mary F. Pepper Memorial building which was erected by Col. Thos. Pepper in 1897 in memory of his wife. I regret that I have been unable to find on the records the deed of the owner of the lot on which the first church was built to the elders of Church. This lot is designated as Lot No. 17 in the Plan of the Town of Springfield.

However, the records disclose that on August 8, 1846, J. W. Ferguson deeded five acres of land for camp ground purposes to the elders of the Springfield Cumberland Presbyterian Church. These elders were: R. C. Manlove, J. Izor, Daniel Clark, Green Benton, J. H. Holland, G. W. Waggoner, Jno. T. Davis, Alexander Lowe, Perry Payne, George Cohea, Jno. W. Ferguson, John D. Robertson and Joseph E. Winfield. The camp ground was located on Sulphur Fork Creek, west of town, and included the cave spring of the grantor. The consideration was a dollar.

Darden & Kelly ran a store in 1840



in a building that stood on the west side of the Public Square.

In 1845 W. H. Welch lived in a dwelling that stood on the southwest corner of South Main street and Seventh Avenue, West (A. & P. Store corner). On February 1, 1851, this property was sold to T. M. Henry by the executors of the estate of Gen. Richard Cheatham, dec'd. The lot had a frontage of 90 feet on South Main street and 110 feet on Seventh Avenue, West. In 1855 J. B. Bell's tailor shop was on this corner.

Gen. Richard Cheatham died in 1845 at the age of 46 years. He was a business man who found time to dabble in politics. After serving four terms in the General Assembly of the state, Gen. Cheatham was elected a member of the Constitutional Convention of 1834, became a member of Congress in 1837, and again represented the county in the Legislature of 1843.

The prefix of General is used in many official records in referring to Richard Cheatham. He gained this title as a member of the state militia.

General Cheatham's home stood on Seventh Avenue, West, opposite the mouth of Walnut street. His widow, Mrs. Susan Cheatham, lived in this home until her death in 1867.

The large tract of land on which Gen. Cheatham's residence stood was bounded on the north by Seventh Avenue, East; south by Thirteenth Avenue, East; east by South Main street, and west by what is now Cemetery street.

Richard Cheatham owned a half interest in what was later known as the Sycamore Powder Mills, at the time of his death. As the name indicates, this mill was on Sycamore Creek, now in Cheatham county, but in Robertson and Davidson Counties during Gen. Cheatham's lifetime. He also owned hundreds of acres of land in this and other counties, as well as being interested in enterprises in Nashville.

Gen. Cheatham owned a cotton gin, which was located on the south side of Seventh Avenue, West, on the lot now owned by the city of Springfield and on which the croquet court is located.

After Gen. Cheatham's death his cotton gin was bought by Benjamin Elliott. In 1854 Elliott sold the gin property to Thomas Anderson.

Col. Archer Cheatham built a large

frame tavern house on the lot on the northwest corner of the Public Square and North Main street in 1801. At a later date he built a storehouse which stood on the corner, and was in business there at the time of his death in 1822. His son Richard then took charge of the store and owned the business at the time of his death in 1845, when E. S. Cheatham took charge of the business and owned it as late as 1855. It will thus be seen that some member of the Cheatham family was in business on this corner for a period of time covering more than 50 years.

Gen. Cheatham had a tread mill for grinding wheat and corn, this mill being located on what is now known as the W. H. Simmons home place.

In 1846 William Price and family lived on the corner of Fifth Avenue, West, and Oak street.

Jo C. Stark afterwards circuit judge, had built a residence on Lot No. 25, facing Fifth Avenue, West, being the middle lot on the south side of the avenue between Oak and Walnut streets. Mr. Stark built a new residence on the north side of Fifth Avenue, almost fronting his old home. He rented his old place to a young lawyer, John E. Garner, who had come to Springfield in 1839 from Nashville. In 1847 Mr. Garner, who afterwards known as "General," purchased this property from Mr. Stark and also Lot No. 59 which faced Spring street, but was immediately south of Lot No. 25. In 1853 General Garner purchased Lot No. 23, on the southwest corner of Fifth Avenue, West, and Oak street, from W. P. Mathews in 1860, as stated in my articles on "The Springfield I Have Known During the Last 46 Years." General Garner built the brick residence on Lots Nos. 23 and 25 which is now the home of Mr. Burton Glover and family.

In 1848 A. H. Judkins and family lived in a residence which stood on the southeast corner of Oak street and Fourth Avenue, West.

Nicholas Conrad was one of Springfield's earliest business men. He died in 1813, but left two sons, William C. and George C., who for nearly thirty years were practically the only rivals the Cheatham family had in the affairs of the county.

William C. Conrad died in 1839. He was unmarried and his will re-

flects his life, for he let it be known that he did not like Miles Kirby and his wife failing to reimburse him for money he had spent in boarding, clothing and educating Mrs. Kirby, who was his niece.

Just why Mr. Conrad thought Mr. Kirby should pay him for his support of Mrs. Kirby in her girlhood is one of those "family skeletons" that walked out of the closet but failed to explain why it was exposed to public view.

William C. Conrad provided in his will that his slaves, "Rachel and her two children, Jennette and Napoleon Rufus, have their freedom after my decease, and that my executor will make them a title in fee simple to Lots Nos. 1 and 2 in the new Addition to the Town of Springfield. It is also my desire," said Mr. Conrad, "that the child of my negro woman Nancy, named Jackson Monroe, have his freedom after my decease." He also gave his negro girl Bessie her freedom.

I gather from reading Mr. Conrad's will that he was a "liberal democrat." Liberal in that he freed some of his slaves, and a democrat because one of the freed slave boys was named after two great democratic presidents, Andrew Jackson and James Monroe. Jackson had retired from the presidency just two years before Mr. Conrad's death. Your guess is the same as mine as to why these slaves were freed, while others were denied their liberty.

The new addition to the town of Springfield mentioned in William Conrad's will was the first addition to the original plan of the town. This addition contained 12 lots and embraced within its boundaries all of the territory lying between what are now known as Seventh and Eighth Avenues, East, and Main and Hill streets.

Lots Nos. 1, 2 and 3 of the addition faced South Main street, while Lots Nos. 4, 5 and 6 faced Willow street. There was a livery stable at the time Conrad died on Lot No. 1, run by J. W. Gorham. The buildings occupied by The Ben Franklin Store, Draper & Darwin Paul Fleischer, Hopson & Wright and the Capitol Theater are on Lots 1 and 2, while the Murphy and O'Brien buildings and Paris Cafe are on Lot 3.

In 1852 W. P. Mathews owned Lots 3 and 6 in this addition. In 1854



Mr. Mathews bought Lot 1, and in the same year John S. Hutchison bought Lot 2, from Rufus and Jennette Conrad, who had been freed by their master.

D. P. Braden became the owner of the six lots in the new addition lying east of Willow street in the early 1850's and built a large two-story frame dwelling on them. This residence was occupied by Mrs. Robert Murphey, daughter of Mr. Braden and widow of Col. Robert Murphey, when I came to Springfield.

George C. Conrad continued in business after the death of his brother William until his own death in 1849. The Conrad store was on the southwest corner of the Public Square and South Main street. George Conrad's stone residence was on a lot immediately west of the store building and faced the Public Square.

At the time of his death George Conrad owned all of the land lying between the Square and Seventh Avenue, West, and South Main and Locust streets, except three lots that faced the Square on which there were small business houses. Conrad also owned all of the land lying between Eighth and Eleventh Avenues, East, and Main and Hill streets. He also owned large acreage tracts around the town and in other districts of the county.

Mrs. Susan Cheatham, his widow, and Edward S. Cheatham were executors of the estate of Gen. Richard Cheatham. His widow, Mrs. Nancy Conrad, and son-in-law, A. Robb, were the executors of the estate of George C. Conrad. These executors had Dr. H. Robertson survey and plat into lots the lands lying on South Main street owned by their testators at the time of their deaths. It was then that Springfield began to experience a small growth.

Alfred Robb was a citizen of Montgomery county. In 1861 Mr. Robb was elected colonel of a regiment of Confederate soldiers. He was killed in the battle of Ft. Donelson, at Dover, in February, 1862.

When was the first turnpike built to or through Springfield? On October 29, 1847, the General Assembly of Tennessee passed an Act chartering the Springfield & Kentucky Turnpike Co., to construct a turnpike road from the top of the ridge in Davidson county to the Kentucky

line via Springfield. The incorporators named in the Act were: James Woodard, Vincent Williams, Tyler Edwards, John M. Pope, Henry Hart, James Sprouse, Bayless Randolph, R. E. Hughes, R. H. Alley, Henry Frey, John S. Hutchison, D. P. Braden, David Henry, B. W. Minnis, Dr. Thomas Menees, Dr. R. K. Hicks, G. B. Mason, D. M. Wells and Col. George W. Morris. Stock in this company was to be sold at \$25.00 per share.

In 1850 the Mansco's Creek & Springfield Turnpike Co. was organized with S. C. Bowers, of Davidson county, as president, and H. Robertson, of Robertson county, as secretary. Col. Wylie Woodard, of Robertson county, was one of the large stockholders in this company and was active in its affairs in his county.

Construction of one of these pikes was completed through Springfield in 1855, and the records indicate that it was the Mansco's Creek and Springfield Turnpike, as S. C. Bowers became a large holder of Robertson county lands lying on Sycamore Creek, in the Twelfth District, in the 1850's, and in 1860 Bowers became the owner of a saw-mill and chair factory in the Twelfth District, buying the property from C. F. Batts. I do not know where the mill and factory was located, but the deed states that the property was on the old road. H. Robertson was also the owner of several hundred acres of land in the Twelfth District. Dr. H. Robertson was a prominent Springfield physician and was a member of the State Senate in the 1850's.

The Mansco's Creek and Springfield Turnpike connected with the Louisville and Nashville Turnpike at a point about one mile northeast of Goodlettsville, not far from where U. S. Highways 31 West and 41 East now intersect.

That a turnpike ran through Springfield via Main street in the late 1850's, is established by old deeds, which show this road was straightened in front of the residence of Judge W. W. Pepper on North Main street when the pike was built. A narrow strip of ground was left between the old and new road beds. Judge Pepper's line followed the east side of the old road, opposite Judge Pepper's property. Jo Green sold one-half of an acre of his land to H. D. Featherstone on

February 22, 1858. On the same date W. B. Adams sold Featherstone two acres adjoining the Green lot for \$2,150.00. Adams' residence was on his land. In order that Featherstone's place might face the new road, Judge Pepper made him a deed to the strip of land lying between the old and new road beds, the deed reciting, "All that strip of ground in front of the within described lot of ground (referring to the lot deeded Featherstone by Green) fronting on the Turnpike road and covered by my title papers, I having given it to Jo Green so as to make the road the line between us."

The deed from Adams to Featherstone described the land as "Beginning 25 steps northwest of W. W. Pepper's office," referring to the brick office building that still stands in the northwest corner of the yard of the Pepper place.

On February 2, 1848, the General Assembly of Tennessee, passed an Act incorporating the Springfield Female Institute. The trustees named in the Act were: Joakim Green, Willis H. Farmer, Robert S. Hicks, Washington Lowe, E. S. Cheatham, Thomas Menees, James E. Rice and Wesley W. Pepper.

The institute opened its fall term that year in a frame residence that faced Spring street (Seventh Avenue, West). The building was adjacent to the Methodist church on the west and part of the present church building is located on ground on which stood the school building.

At the outbreak of the civil war Misses Felts, Comstock and Gailor were teachers in the Institute and boarded with the family of Milton Green, whose home at that time stood where now stands the First Baptist Church on North Main Street. Some of the teachers being from the north, one from Connecticut, when the war broke out the school suspended. There being no place in Springfield for girls to go to school, Mr. G. W. Davis erected a one-room schoolhouse on the west side of Oak street, where now stands the residence owned by Davis Bell, a grand-son of Mr. Davis. This residence is immediately north of the Methodist parsonage, and the one-room school building forms part of its ell. Miss Emma Lattimer, of Nashville, taught this school during the civil war period (1861-1865),



one of her pupils being Springfield's "Grand Old Lady," Miss Ella Davis.

When the civil war ended the Springfield Female Institute reopened with the Rev. S. D. Ogburn as principal, assisted by his wife, Mrs. Mary Hutcheson Ogburn, and Miss Sarah Nuckolls.

In 1868 the Rev. E. T. Hart was principal of the Institute, assisted by Misses Marietta and Vic Swanson. S. H. Benson was business manager.

In 1882 the Female Institute building was destroyed in the fire that destroyed the Methodist Church. The Institute then moved into the Gen. Richard Cheatham residence which Mrs. Cornelia Benton, widow of S. H. Benton, had bought from H. L. W. Cheatham on March 11, 1878. Mrs. Benton ran the school for years, August 22, 1888, Prof. J. W. Huey purchased the Cheatham property and it was used for school purposes until the town of Springfield erected the building on North Main street now used as an elementary school.

Attorney Sylvanus H. Benton was shot to death by Capt. Samuel R. Simpson and son, Ben, on the morning of June 29, 1869, causing great excitement throughout the county, as both Benton and Capt. Simpson were popular men.

Bad blood had existed between Capt. Simpson and Mr. Benton ever since the former's return from the civil war, and time caused this feeling to become more intense instead of healing it.

Capt. Simpson ran a blacksmith and woodwork shop near the northwest corner of North Main street and Fourth Avenue West. On the morning of the killing Capt. Simpson and his son saw Benton enter a ravine on the opposite side of Main street from the shop. The two Simpsons followed Mr. Benton and shot him to death with pistols which were placed against his body.

Both of the Simpsons were indicted for murder. On October 6, 1870, a change of venue to Sumner county was granted the defendants. All witnesses for both the state and defense were placed under bonds of \$250.00 each for their appearance at Gallatin on November 2, 1870. The witnesses for the state were: Ward Mathews, J. M. Binkley, B. E. Linebaugh, H. V. Walden, M. Green, J. A.

Bugg, T. M. Henry, F. M. Woodard and Henry Thomas, col. The defense witnesses were: M. Woodard, R. H. Mumphey, H. Fletcher, M. Green, B. M. Cheatham, Wm. Weatherford, E. T. Hart, R. K. Hicks and S. D. Ogburn.

The Simpsons were finally cleared of the charge of having murdered Mr. Benton.

In 1849 A. C. Gaines, who had been in the mercantile business in Springfield for many years, at one time being a member of the firm of Gaines & Williams, owned 100 feet of Lot No. 15, running south from Fifth Avenue, West, and extending from the Public Square to Locust street. The property was sold by order of the Circuit Court, when R. C. Manlove became the purchaser. May 16, 1850, Gen. John E. Garner bought the lot on which there was a building. Later, Gen. Garner erected the brick office building now occupied by the White McClanahan Insurance Agency. This building was used as a law office by Gen. Garner, his son, A. E. Garner, and grand-son, John Ewing Garner for a period of time covering 90 years.

December 22, 1850, John E. Pressise bought from the executors of George C. Conrad's estate a house and lot on Main street, the deed reciting: "Being the same (lot) on which the old weatherboarded house now stands, fronting Main street, being 60 feet south from the old southwest corner of Lot No. 11, south 80 feet." The Pressise lot is included in the ground now covered by the Glenn Building.

In 1859, W. S. Warner lived in a house that stood on a lot fronting 63 feet on the east side of South Main street, on which part of the Henry & Bell building and the Commerce-Union Bank building now stand. The Warner property also had a frontage on the north side of Seventh Avenue, East, on which is now located the ell of the Henry & Bell building.

Gen. John E. Garner bought the Warner property on December 2, 1859, paying \$1,040.00 for it. The residence stood for more than a quarter of a century after Gen. Garner became the owner. In the late 1880's Gen. Garner erected three one-story brick business houses on the Main street frontage of this property.

The idea has prevailed for a long time that Gen. Richard Cheatham owned the land embraced within the boundaries of the old cemetery in Springfield at the time of his death in 1845. Believing this to be true, that splendid woman, Mrs. Jane Ewing, in 1923 had the living descendants of Gen. Cheatham deed this property to her as trustee, to be used for library purposes by the town of Springfield. The deed states that in the event Mrs. Ewing should die without naming her successor as trustee, then the mayor of Springfield should become trustee of the property. Mrs. Ewing died a short time ago in Nashville. I do not know if she designated her successor as trustee of the cemetery.

Mrs. Ewing's interest in this matter is to be commended, but the descendants of Gen. Richard Cheatham had no property interest in the old cemetery.

January 20, 1799, Thomas Johnson sold Archer Cheatham 129 acres of land lying between the north boundary line of the original Town Plan of Springfield and Sulphur Fork. This land included within its boundaries the ground that was at that time, or was later to become, the town cemetery. As Archer Cheatham, Sr., was living at that time he could have been the purchaser of the Johnson tract. At any rate, this land descended to John L. Cheatham who died in 1833. In 1849 the cemetery grounds were not considered a part of the Johnson tract, for in that year John L. Cheatham's children sold this tract of land to Miles Kirby and J. E. Winfield. The deed from the heirs of John L. Cheatham to Kirby and Winfield did not include the cemetery grounds. John L. Cheatham was Gen. Richard Cheatham's brother.

The board of mayor and aldermen exercised control of the cemetery property in 1854, as shown by Section 21 of an Act of the General Assembly of Tennessee of that year, which reads as follows:

"That the mayor and aldermen may make such rules and regulations, and pass such ordinances as may be deemed necessary and proper, to protect, preserve and perpetuate the public burying ground or graveyard, within the corporation of Springfield; that they shall appoint a sexton for the same, and describe and de-



fine his duties, and the remuneration which he shall receive for his services; he shall hold office for two years, and until his successor is appointed, but be liable, however, to be removed by the mayor and aldermen at any time, for misconduct in office."

That the town owned the cemetery property is clearly indicated by the action of the Board of Mayor and Aldermen in 1857, when they sold a number of town lots off of the south and east sides of the cemetery, in what was known as the "Cemetery Addition, to the Town of Springfield."

That the Conrads and Cheathams carried their family rivalry to their graves is shown by the fact that none of the Conrads was buried in the old cemetery, in which repose the remains of members of two or three generations of the Cheathams.

August 9, 1833, George C. Conrad bought a large tract of land lying west of Springfield from John Hutcheson. November 18, 1836, Conrad bought additional acreage from Henry Johnson adjoining the land he had purchased from Hutcheson. The Conrad land included within its boundaries the Springfield High School grounds and the farm of Burns McIntosh, this farm lying north and west of the high school property. Conrad established a burying ground on his farm in which were buried members of the Conrad family and members of other well-known families of the town of that period. This graveyard is on a knoll west of and across the hollow from the high school grounds; this knoll being in the rear of the tenant house on the McIntosh place. After Elmwood Cemetery was opened the bodies of Wm. C. and Geo. C. Conrad were removed to the new cemetery, as were the remains of a number of other persons. The Conrad burying ground was only a short distance north of the old Springfield and Port Royal road. There are no stones there now to show that the ground is hallowed by the remains of many of Springfield's early families.

The executors of George Conrad sold the farm on which their dead were buried to Giles Connell, a prominent Springfield business man of his day, on January 22, 1851, and for many years the Connell family

resided in a residence that stood where the high school building now stands. Connell street, which runs along the east side of the high school grounds, was named after Giles Connell's family.

In 1851 the following firms were doing business in Springfield:

Bell & Hockersmith, druggists; D. P. Braden, general merchandise; James B. Bell, tailor; John F. Coutts, general merchant; W. H. Bugg, dry goods; R. A. and G. W. Davis, general merchandise; I. A. Eckles, drugs, etc.; E. S. Cheatham, general merchandise, and J. L. Strickland, boots and shoes.

Cheatham's store was on the northwest corner of the Public Square and North Main street. Bell & Hockersmith, Jno. F. Coutts, R. A. and G. W. Davis, D. P. Braden and W. H. Bugg were on the east side of the Public Square and Eckles and Strickland were on the west side of the Public Square.

Drs. M. Woodard and H. Robertson had offices on the north side of the Public Square, while Drs. R. K. Hicks and Thomas Menees were located on the west side of the Square.

December 1, 1854, the executors of the estate of Gen. Richard Cheatham, deceased, sold to Chas. Baird, of Fayette county, Tennessee, Lots Nos. 27, 29, 31, 61, 63 and 65, of the original plan of Springfield. The consideration was \$3,000.00. There was a dwelling house on Lot No. 29. November 2, 1865, Mr. Baird sold these lots to Judge Jo C. Stark, his son-in-law, and the family of John Lee Stark, son of Judge Stark, occupied the residence of Lot No. 29 when I came to Springfield.

The residences of Jordan S. Brown, Van A. Payne and John Dunn are now located on Lots Nos. 27 and 61, while the residences of Fred C. Harris, Chas. E. Bell, Miss Bessie Banks, Miss Janie Head and Associated Funeral Homes are on Lots Nos. 29, 31, 63 and 65.

A plat of the town of Springfield was made in 1855. This plat gives the location of the lots within the corporate limits of the town and the names of the owners of same, which information follows:

Main street, starting where the tracks of the Louisville & Nashville Railroad now run and going north, east side of street:

M. Crockett. Intersection with

Academy street, now Tenth Avenue, East: R. A. Davis, residence; D. M. Briggs; Dr. R. K. Hicks, residence; W. A. Pinson; acreage belonging to George Conrad's heirs; C. Manlove. George Conrad had a cotton gin on the Manlove lot during his lifetime. The Moore Block is now on this lot. Just before the civil war Grove street (Eighth Avenue) was opened along the north side of the Manlove lot. W. L. Mathews owned the lot on which the Paris Cafe and Eugene O'Brien buildings are now located. There was a residence and blacksmith shop on this lot in 1855. Strother Murphey lived in the residence and ran the shop. The next lot was owned by J. G. Hutchison, while W. L. Mathews owned the corner lot on which the Ben Franklin store building is now located. There was a livery stable on this lot in 1855. Then came the intersection with Spring street, now Seventh Avenue, East: County jail; Evans & Co., merchants; J. B. Pressise, residence; E. S. Hockersmith, merchant; Braden & Rayn, merchants; R. A. Davis, merchant; J. Fiser, merchant; J. & A. G. Green, merchants. Intersection with May street, now Fifth Avenue, East: Sarah Payne, hotel; Joakin Green, residence. Intersection with Elm street, now Fourth Avenue, East. There were only two residences between Fourth Avenue and Sulphur Fork on the east side of North Main street in 1855. First came the residence of J. H. Kirk, then there was acreage owned by H. H. Kirk. Next was the acreage and residence of Judge W. W. Pepper. Main street, going north, west side, 1855:

W. H. Bugg; H. H. Kirk, residence; E. S. Cheatham; T. Spain; M. Crockett; E. J. Hockersmith, C. Manlove, residence; James Hughes, shop; J. B. Bell, merchant. Intersection with Spring street, now Seventh Avenue, West. Conrad's heirs, storehouse. Public Square, F. G. Cheatham, merchant; J. & A. G. Green; M. S. Jameson, residence. Intersection with Fourth Avenue. Cemetery, which then ran to Main street and Fourth Avenue. Residences of C. Hurt, M. Henry, Dr. M. Woodard and W. B. Adams. There were only four residences between the cemetery and Sulphur Fork Creek on the west side of Main street in 1855.

South side of Public Square:



George Conrad's heirs, storehouse and residence; M. Kirby, merchant; I. A. Eckles, druggist; J. Ayres, merchant; Conrad's heirs.

West side of Public Square: J. Ayers; Dr. Tom Menees, office; J. Ayres; D. P. Braden, office; J. E. Garner, office.

Fifth Avenue, then May street, going west, north side: H. H. Orendorff, residence and tanyard; L. Pepper. Intersection with Willow street. Sarah Payne, hotel. Intersection with Main street. E. S. Cheatham, storehouse, J. C. Stark, office; C. M. Jameson, office building; M. Crockett, J. Ayres. Intersection with Locust street. J. Ayres, residence; A. G. Green, residence. Intersection with Oak street. Whiting heirs; J. F. Coutts, residence; J. C. Stark, residence; W. H. Johnson, residence. Intersection with Walnut street. Miles Kirby, whose residential property embraced all of the land lying between Fourth and Fifth Avenues, West, and Oak and Garner streets.

Fifth Avenue, south side, going west: Black Branch, A. G. Green, W. W. Conrad, E. P. Benton, residence. Intersection with Willow street. J. & A. G. Green, merchants. Public Square J. E. Garner. Intersection with Locust street. Cumberland Presbyterian Church; M. Draughon, residence; W. W. Phillips, residence. Intersection with Oak street. J. E. Garner, residence; C. Beard. Intersection with Walnut street. C. Beard, residence.

Seventh Avenue, north side, going west: D. Braden, W. H. Bugg, Polly Ferguson, residence. Intersection with Willow street. Polly Ferguson, shop; M. Ryan, county jail. Intersection with Main street. George Conrad's heirs. Intersection with Locust street. D. Davis, residence; M. Fyke, residence. Intersection with Oak street. Methodist Church; residence used as girl's school; J. E. Garner; C. Beard. Intersection with Walnut street. C. Beard.

Seventh Avenue, south side, going west: D. P. Braden, residence. Intersection with Willow street. W. Menees; W. L. Mathews, livery stable. Intersection with Main street. J. B. Bell, merchant; E. S. Hocker-smith; Mrs. Richard Cheatham, residence. Cheatham street was not opened until several years later.

There were no residences on

Fourth Avenue in 1855. Mr. W. T. Peck lived on the north side of Fourth Avenue, West, but his residence faced what was later an extension of Walnut street.

The population of Springfield in 1855 was less than 400.

Springfield took on new life with the completion of the Edgefield & Kentucky Railroad into the town in the late 1850's. Several additions of town lots were opened.

In 1857 M. V. Fyke was mayor of Springfield. The aldermen were: D. P. Braden, Jo C. Stark, G. W. Davis, Jo Green, E. A. Williams and W. P. Mathews. Realizing that the town needed building lots for residential purposes close to the Public Square, the Board of Mayor and Aldermen added two additions to the Town of Springfield and offered these lots for sale. The first was known as the "Cemetery Addition," and the second as the "Commons Addition."

The lots in the cemetery addition had been included within the boundaries of the old cemetery which until that time had extended to both Fourth Avenue (Elm Street) and North Main Street. Six lots fronted Main Street. The Main Street lots were 54.8 feet wide and 125 feet in length. There were two lots, each 90 feet in width, on the Elm Street side, these lots being on either side of the Elm Street entrance to the cemetery. Milton Green and E. A. Williams were the first purchasers of lots in this addition, these gentlemen having bought lots on December 4, 1857.

The town commons addition extended east from a street then known as Beech Street, which was later closed, to a new street designated as Branch Street. This addition was bounded on the north by Fifth Avenue, East, and on the South by Seventh Avenue, East.

About the same time the town opened its two additions Joakim Green opened an addition on North Oak Street. Green Street, now known as Third Avenue, was opened through this addition.

The Stewart Mills were located on the Joakim Green addition, these mills being reached by alleys that ran from both Oak and Green streets. Chas. Palmer, G. W. Davis and Thos. O. Connell & Co. were successive owners of the Stewart Mills until

1872, when G. W. Davis and S. D. Ogburn, under the firm name of Davis & Ogburn, became owners of the property.

In 1858 Jo C. Stark, E. A. Williams and E. M. Reynolds bought from the town of Springfield the land on which the mill building now stands on Black Branch, on the south side of Fifth Avenue, East. In 1859 Stark, Williams & Co. erected the building and installed the mill machinery. This mill was later run by Bell, Sadler & Co. In the late 1880's Davis & Ogburn bought this property and closed down the Stewart Mills. Later, Mr. Davis sold his interest to Mr. Ogburn, who operated the mill until his death in 1917.

Mr. G. W. Davis was elected Mayor of Springfield in 1858. Mr. A. Pike succeeded Mr. Davis as alderman.

On April 16, 1859, Mayor Davis presented his wife, Mrs. Elizabeth Connell Davis, with the first sewing machine brought to Robertson County. The machine was manufactured by Grover & Baker and was purchased by Mr. Davis from the Nashville Machine Co., the purchase price being \$115.00.

The first coal oil lamp used in Robertson County was presented to Mrs. Mary Pepper by her husband, Judge W. W. Pepper.

J. W. Ferguson, J. J. Ferguson and Thos. W. Spain, under the firm name of Ferguson Bros. & Spain, had a wool carding machine in a building on the north side of Seventh Avenue, East, in 1858. This building was located on the west side of Black Branch, where a tobacco warehouse now stands.

We are indebted to Miss Ella Davis for a copy of The Springfield Speculator, of October 27, 1860. Miss Davis' father, Mr. G. W. Davis, was the principal owner of The Speculator.

It is hard for the present generation of Robertson Countians to realize that the county's chief money crop, tobacco, was not generally produced in the county until after 1860, and that many good citizens considered the use of tobacco as harmful as the use of whiskey.

These sentiments were evidently shared by the editor of The Speculator, for the paper stated that the Ohio Conference of the Methodist Church, in session at Gallipolis, "had taken another step" by the adoption



of the following resolution:

"Whereas, the use of tobacco is a great evil, and leads to other evils; therefore,

"Resolved, by the Ohio Conference, after the present session, we will not receive any person into full connection who persists in the use of tobacco."

The following named firms and individuals advertised in The Speculator:

B. F. Hurt, agent Southern Express Co. and Phoenix Insurance Co.; Aaron Burr, dry goods and clothing, east side of Public Square; G. W. Davis, agent Aetna Insurance Co.; Kaufman & Goldnamer, with a stock of ready made clothing, dry goods, etc.; J. A. Briggs, staple and fancy groceries, south side of Public Square; I. A. Eckles, drugs and medicines, in building that stood on a lot which is now occupied by the east half of the J. C. McMurtry & Co. building; A. C. Dale & Co., carriages, buggies, barouches, etc.; Peck & Frey, groceries, south side of Public Square.

Col. D. D. Holman announced that he had become proprietor of The Cheatham House. The Colonial Hotel now stands on the site of The Cheatham House, which was first known as The Brick Tavern and was built by John L. Cheatham, who died there in 1833. There has been a hotel on this location for more than 115 years.

Joakim Green, Perry Payne and Milton Green were engaged in the grocery and hardware business on the corner now occupied by the First National Bank.

When the dark clouds of civil war began to gather after Abraham Lincoln's election as president in 1860, a majority of the citizens of Robertson county were opposed to Tennessee separating from the union of states, sentiment against secession being especially strong in Springfield.

The views then entertained by a majority of the voters of Robertson county were largely due to the fact that the county had been a bulwark of the Whig party, which opposed separation, and the further fact that many of the Democratic leaders were followers of Senator Andrew Johnson instead of Gov. Isham G. Harris.

The Whig party had carried Robertson county in every gubernatorial and presidential election since 1834.

In the presidential election of 1860 the electors for Bell and Everett, the Whig candidates for president and vice president, received 1,309 votes in the county, while the total vote cast for electors of the two Democratic tickets was 1,029. There were no Lincoln electors on the ticket.

At the first election called by Gov. Harris in January, 1860, with Legislative approval, to determine whether or not Tennessee should separate from the union, Robertson countians cast an overwhelming vote against secession. A majority of the votes cast in the state was opposed to secession.

A number of southern states had seceded in the fall of 1860 and in January, 1861. These states chose senators and representatives, who met in Montgomery, Alabama, on February 4, 1861, and organized the Confederate states. On February 7, 1861, the Confederate Congress elected Jefferson Davis, of Mississippi, president, and Alexander H. Stephens, of Georgia, vice president. Davis and Stephens took the oath of office at Montgomery on February 18, 1861, and the new government was in full bloom.

Fort Sumpter, opposite the city of Charleston, South Carolina, was besieged by Confederate troops on April 12, 1861, and two days later the defenders of the Fort surrendered. April 15, 1861, President Lincoln called for volunteers to help suppress "the rebellion," and civil war among citizens of the greatest republic the world had ever known was in full sway.

In the meantime Gov. Harris had not been idle and thousands of troops to aid the Confederacy had been raised and equipped in Tennessee. Many of the regiments had already gone or were on their way to Virginia when on June 8, 1861, the second election was held to determine the state's course in the conflict. A majority of the votes cast in this election favored separation, although East Tennessee voted overwhelmingly against leaving the Union. In this election Robertson countians voted almost unanimously in favor of secession, there being 3,839 votes for to 17 against.

The flower of the young manhood of Robertson county enlisted in the Confederate army, and the list of those who made the supreme sacri-

fice in defense of the "Lost Cause" contained the names of hundreds of the county's families. In addition, hundreds of fine young men returned home during or at the close of the war with racked bodies or missing limbs.

The first companies to enter the Confederate army from this county were companies C and I of the Fourteenth Infantry Regiment, which were organized in May, 1861. The officers of Company C were: Washington Lowe, captain; A. C. Dale, first lieutenant; J. S. Mulloy, second lieutenant, and G. B. Hutcheson, third lieutenant. Company I was commanded by Wm. P. Simmons. Capt. Simmons' lieutenants were: W. S. Winfield, first; D. W. C. Randolph, second, and Thomas White, third. Captain Lowe and Simmons resigned on account of old age in April, 1862, in Virginia, where their regiment had gone soon after its organization to engage in the battles of Northern Virginia. Captain Lowe was the father of Major Washington Eldridge Lowe, who was killed in the battle of Munfordsville, Kentucky, on September 16, 1862. Major Lowe resigned as Attorney-General of this circuit to enter the Confederate army. He was only 27 years old at the time of his death. Capt. Lowe died in 1866. Both are buried in the old cemetery.

Lieut. Geo. B. Hutcheson, of Captain Lowe's company, died in 1863 as the result of wounds received in battle. Lieut. John B. Hutcheson, a brother of George B., was killed in battle in 1862. Both are buried in Elmwood Cemetery.

M. V. Fyke, former mayor of Springfield, organized a company of Robertson countians, which became a part of the 49th Tennessee Infantry. Captain Fyke's lieutenants were: T. J. Morris, first; H. V. Harrison, second, and M. J. Draughon, third. This company was in the battle of Ft. Donelson, at Dover, in February, 1862, and was among the troops surrendered to Gen. U. S. Grant by Gen. Simon B. Buckner on the 16th of that month. In the latter part of 1862 the officers were exchanged at City Point, Va., and again entered the Confederate army, as did the non-commissioned officers and privates of the Regiment, the latter being exchanged the same year at Vicksburg, Mississippi.



Soon after the fall of Fort Donelson Union troops entered Springfield and the town and county were practically in control of these troops from that time until the end of the war in April, 1865. The first Federal troops were replaced by a company of the Tenth Tennessee Regiment, under command of Capt. Sterling Ham-bright.

In the fall of 1864 the white troops were replaced by the Fifteenth U. S. Regiment of colored troops, under command of Col. T. J. Downey. This regiment remained until the fall of the Confederacy. In the early spring of 1865 a company of these colored troops was quartered near Cedar Hill one night, when a band of Confederate guerrillas, led by Capt. Alex Harper of Lebanon, made a surprise attack and killed 14 of their number. Harper and his men escaped without the loss of a man.

The Cheatham Hotel was the headquarters of all of these Federal troops during the more than three years they patrolled Robertson county.

The first reunion in Springfield of the men who wore the Confederate gray was held in the summer of 1866. The residence of Dr. R. K. Hicks was headquarters for the reunion which was attended by several hundred veterans. At that time Dr. Hicks lived in a house which faced the north side of Fifth Avenue, West, the lot being bounded on the west by Oak street. R. K. Hicks, Jr., was one of the first young men in Robertson county to enlist in the Confederate army and was with the Army of Northern Virginia when Tennessee seceded.

For many years Dr. Willis H. Farmer was a prominent physician of Springfield. During the Civil War period Dr. Farmer lived on the west side of North Main street in a house that stood where Mr. Porter Bernard now lives. In 1871 T. D. McIntosh bought the Farmer property and it was the home of the McIntosh family for more than 50 years.

Dr. Farmer's daughter, Annie L., married Martin V. Ingram in 1860. Mr. Ingram was a Confederate soldier during the Civil War. In 1865 he and Archie Thomas began the publication here of the Robertson Register. The paper suspended in 1868 and Ingram moved the plant to Clarksville where he established the

Tobacco Leaf. Later the Tobacco Leaf and Chronicle were consolidated under the name of The Clarksville Leaf-Chronicle, with Mr. Ingram as editor. Mr. Ingram has been dead for many years, but the Leaf-Chronicle continues to be one of Tennessee's best newspapers.

Mr. Ingram was the author of "The Bell Witch," he having gathered the material used in writing the book while living in this county.

In the late 1860's Springfield's physicians were: M. Woodard, R. K. Hicks, George W. Menees, W. H. Farmer and R. S. Blakenship.

In the same period the following named attorneys were located in Springfield: Jo C. and Chas. Stark; J. E. and A. E. Garner, W. B. Lowe, John W. Judd, Bidwell & Brooks, S. H. Benton and E. A. Hicks.

The following named individuals and firms were in the mercantile business in Springfield in 1868:

R. L. Tanner, drugs; Jas. B. Bell, dry goods and clothing; W. B. Adams, saddles, harness and bridles; A. Pike grocer; W. M. Pollock, tin, copper and sheet-iron ware; Jordan S. Brown, dry goods and clothing; J. H. Manor, dry goods and clothing; W. T. Peck, dry goods and clothing; Ben S. Linebaugh, harness; T. & R. E. McCulloch, gentlemen's furnishing goods; R. E. Bibb, saddler; R. H. Anderson & Bro., undertakers and furniture; John S. Hart & Co., dry goods; T. M. Henry, undertaker and furniture, and G. W. Davis, groceries, queensware and hardware.

In 1860 Mr. G. W. Davis was in the newspaper business for a short time. He entered the mercantile business again later. In the 1870's Mr. Davis and Harry England were in business under the firm name of Davis England & Co. This firm was succeeded in the early 1880's by Davis & Ogburn, Mr. Davis' partner being Rev. S. D. Ogburn, with whom he was also associated in the milling business. In the 1890's Mr. Davis was joined in the mercantile business by his son-in-law, Lon Bell, and the latter's brother, Lem, under the firm name of Davis, Bell & Co. This firm went out of business after the death of Mr. Davis in 1898.

In the 1880's Mr. Davis organized the Davis Manufacturing Co., whose plant was on Hill street, at the Louisville & Nashville Railroad. On December 12, 1890, the Davis Manufac-

turing Co. sold its plant to the Springfield Mill Co.

In 1867 the colored people of Springfield had no public place in which to worship God or educate their children. The race had been given its freedom five years before, but no provision was made for its welfare. Without money, without education, starting from "scratch," the members of the race were making slow progress. There were three courageous souls among them, Robert Conrad, Carter Bailey and George Lowe, who realized that if their race were to make any advancement it would have to be done through religion and education. These three men went to a kind-hearted white citizen, Mr. T. M. Henry, and opened their hearts to him. Mr. Henry did not fail them in their hour of need.

July 13, 1867, the following deed was recorded: "I, T. M. Henry, for the purpose and consideration of establishing a Church House and building the same, for the benefit and use of the African Methodist Episcopal and Missiouary Baptist Church (colored) in Robertson county, do by these presents convey to Robert Conrad, Carter Bailey and George Lowe (colored), trustees, to them and their successors, so long as the same shall be used for a church or school house, and no longer, the following described tract of land, bounded as follows: Beginning at northwest corner at a sand rock, which is also the corner to D. P. Braden, G. W. Menees and John W. Judd's parcel of land, running south three hundred feet to a stake, thence west two hundred and eighty feet to the beginning, being part of a tract of land purchased by me from Dr. Thos. Menees."

The church house was built and was used by both, the Methodists and Baptists. Carter Bailey preached for the Methodists, while Hime McKissick was the Baptist preacher. Another Methodist preacher of that period was Fred Mathews.

This church building stood on the south side of what is now Eighth Avenue, East, and was east of Mabel street. A deed to a strip of land adjoining the church property, and over which there must have been a controversy as to the location of the church building, was deeded Carter Bailey, Robert Conrad and George Lowe, as trustees of the African Methodist, by Dr. Thos. Menees on



June 5, 1869. This strip was 22 poles long and 37/11 poles wide, the consideration being \$25.00.

The first colored school building in Springfield was located between Cheatham street and Richard street, north of Thirteenth Avenue, West. This school was built in the early 1870's. Bud Carr is said to have been the first teacher of this school. Other teachers were John Batts, Emma Ballard and Sadie Collins.

The Robertson County Agricultural and Mechanical Association was organized in 1868 with C. C. Bell as president. The association bought ten acres of land in South Town, lying on the west side of South Main street, then known as the old Nashville dirt road, and erected thereon the necessary buildings and track to hold a county fair. Sixteenth, Seventeenth and Eighteenth Avenues, West, run through the sections in which the association was located.

In 1872 the officers and directors of the association were: J. A. Bell, president; B. M. Cheatham and I. G. C. Mason, vice presidents; E. A. Hicks, secretary; J. G. Woodard, treasurer; J. M. Binkley, C. J. Davis, B. B. Batts, T. E. Morris, J. B. Holman, J. L. Yates Dr. J. T. W. Taylor, Josiah Farmer, R. T. Farthing, Jo Brakefield, G. B. Randolph and Dr. L. B. Walton, directors.

The association ran for years and its annual meetings were largely attended. It wound up its affairs because of dissension among its stock-holders.

One of the streets running north and south through the section formerly occupied by the Robertson County Agricultural and Mechanical Association, is named Leota, in honor of the wife of Mr. James I. Holman, he having bought the property when the association disbanded.

The January term, 1872, of the Quarterly Court of Robertson county was interesting. After electing John Woodard chairman for the ensuing year, the court heard an address by Hon. J. B. Killebrew in which he urged the farmers of the county to husband and improve their lands by crop rotation and sowing cover crops. Mr. Killebrew stated that Robertson was fast becoming one of the poorest counties in the state as a result of farmers raising corn on the same land year after year.

Mr. Killebrew's address was fol-

lowed by stirring pleas for free education by two young Springfield lawyers, Messrs. G. R. Scott and J. L. Watts. Mr. Scott was a pioneer in the cause of free education, making speeches in its favor throughout middle Tennessee. Mr. Watts served the county as superintendent of education from 1873 to 1876.

I wish it were possible for Messrs. Killebrew, Scott and Watts to return to Robertson county at this time. They did not know when they were fighting for their beliefs before the Robertson county court 73 years ago that they were sowing seed that would result in a bountiful harvest. Then they were referred to as "Reformers." Now all know they were right. So it goes with life. Men who are denounced by their generation because they dare advocate something different from the accepted rule, are praised by later generations for having lead the way to a better standard of living.

George R. Scott was born and reared at Barren Plains. He died in 1877 in his 32nd year and is buried in the old cemetery. It is said that he was able and eloquent. His death at such an early age was a distinct loss to the county.

Seventy-two years ago the citizens of Springfield were clamoring for manufacturing plants. At that time the Owensboro & Nashville Railroad was under construction in Kentucky and it was believed that the road would be built into Nashville, as its name indicated. On January 31, 1872, and overflow mass meeting was held in Springfield to demand the construction of the road through here. The meeting was presided over by Hon. B. M. Cheatham, mayor. The preamble of the resolutions adopted by the citizens at that meeting could well be used in a meeting called at this time.

This preamble stated, "Whereas, It being plain to our minds that some action should be taken looking to the future growth and commercial interest of Robertson county and its seat of justice, Springfield; and Whereas, we have watched with no small degree of interest the flow of money to other markets for all articles of manufactory, all of which should and could be made in our country; therefore, Be it resolved" (the body of the resolutions followed in which demand was made of the officials of

the Owensboro & Nashville Railroad Co. that the road be built via Springfield).

Boyd M. Cheatham was a son of Gen. Richard Cheatham. He served a term in the Tennessee House of Representatives while mayor of Springfield. Mr. Cheatham's residence was located where now stands the Albion Hotel Apartments. He died in 1877.

Prior to 1850 cotton was the principal money crop of Robertson county's farmers, except those in the extreme western section who had begun the cultivation of tobacco as early as 1820.

After 1840 the farmers in the central and eastern sections of the county began the production of tobacco, but on a small scale, except in the Tenth Civil District, where the McMurrays had become the first dealers in that section.

The manufacture of whiskey was increasing in the county and farmers increased their corn acreage to supply grain for the distillers. By 1870 the production of cotton had almost ceased in Robertson county, only 11 bales being produced that year. Corn acreage had shown a heavy increase, 559,020 bushels being produced in 1870. The tobacco production that year amounted to 2,103,322 pounds.

The whiskey industry began to boom with the close of the civil war in 1865, and Springfield was the hub of this industry. The period from 1865 to 1885 might well be termed the "whiskey era" in Robertson county.

In the middle 1870's there were 11 whiskey distilleries and 10 brandy distilleries in Robertson county, and all but six of them were located near Springfield. The whiskey distilleries were: Woodard & Moore (Judge John Woodard and William Moore), Dr. George E. Draughton, Hopkins & Lawrence, James H. Garrett Woodard, H. H. Kirk & Co., G. H. Garrett & Co., Charles Nelson, James W. Powell, Thos. Baird & Co., Wilson Pitt and Thomas Woodard.

The whiskey distilleries operated daily but the brandy distilleries were only run during the fruit season.

In a letter to Mr. J. B. Killebrew, secretary of the Tennessee Bureau of Agriculture, on March 7, 1874, which letter was published in "Re-



sources of Tennessee" for that year, Mr. William Moore stated that there were 11 wholesale whiskey firms doing business in Springfield, as follows:

Woodard & Moore; Harrison, Murphey & Bell, L. L. Polk, Thos. Pepper & Co., Wiley Woodard, John W. Stark & Co., Thos. L. Green & Co., Farmer & Fuqua, William Clotworthy & Co., Hopkins & Lawrence, and Carroll Huey & Son.

Mr. Moore stated that these wholesale firms sold approximately \$1,000,000.00 worth of whiskey annually and that 40,000 barrels of whiskey were shipped by railroad from Springfield yearly.

Mr. Moore further stated that it cost \$125,000.00 a year to manufacture the barrels used by the county's distilleries.

In addition to the 11 whiskey distilleries in Robertson county there were nine firms engaged in the re-distillation of whiskey, as follows: John W. Stark & Co., Thos. Pepper & Co., Carroll Huey, William Clotworthy & Co., Wiley Woodard & Co., J. E. Morrow, John G. Coutts, Farmer & Fuqua, and Hopkins & Lawrence.

In my articles on "The Springfield I Have Known During the Last 46 Years" more is said about the whiskey industry in Robertson county.

Mr. C. C. Bell entered the tobacco business in Springfield on January 12, 1875, in a building that stood where Maxwell's Drugstore and the Loose Floor of Harper & Hendley now stands, on the southeast corner of South Main Street and Tenth Avenue, East. The building purchased by Mr. Bell was known as the warehouse of G. H. Garrett & Co., and had been used by that firm for the storage of whiskey. In 1879 Mr. Bell bought the property on the east side of South Main street, between the railroad and Eleventh Avenue, East, and built a large tobacco stemmery thereon. This building stood until destroyed by fire in 1909.

The house of worship now owned and used by The Church of Christ, located on the east side of North Main street, was erected by the Baptist Church and used by the congregation of that church until the erection of their present building, southeast corner of North Main street and Fourth Avenue, East.

On April 10, 1877, Milton Green was paid \$375.00 for the lot on which The Church of Christ stands by Mrs. E. Gilbert, and on the same date Mr. Green deeded the lot to Milton Green, T. D. McIntosh and R. T. Mathews, deacons of the Baptist Church at Springfield, the deed reciting that if the property was abandoned by the Baptists it was to revert to Mrs. Gilbert. August 23, 1880, Mrs. Gilbert made a deed to Milton Green, R. T. Mathews, James T. Henry and George Dalton, deacons of the Baptist Church of Springfield, in which she stated that for the love and affection she had for the Church, she released, transferred, and relinquished to said deacons and their successors in office, for the use and benefit of said Church, any interest she had in said lot.

The Baptist Church was first organized in Springfield, according to Goodspeed's History, in 1847, but the congregation disbanded soon thereafter.

The Rev. Jerre W. Cullum was an active minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, in Middle Tennessee, for more than 50 years, and no denomination ever had a worthier or more popular representative.

Bro. Cullum was pastor of the Methodist Church here three times. He was first assigned to the Springfield station in 1855 and remained here four years, during which time a new church house was built.

In 1877 Bro. Cullum was again in charge of the Springfield church and in May of that year he took a census of the white families living in and adjacent to Springfield. He recorded the names of these families and the number of persons in each in his diary.

Bro. Cullum's last visit to Springfield was made in October, 1907, when he attended the Annual Conference of his church. This conference was presided over by Bishop E. E. Hoss.

A short time after the conference Bro. Cullum sent a copy of his diary entry of Springfield families in 1877 to Rev. J. B. Lowry, at that time pastor of the Methodist Church here. This copy was published in a local paper. Through the kindness of Mrs. J. M. (Bessie) Elam I am able to publish the names of

these families with the number of persons in each:

Dr. Webber, 10; Mrs. Olivia Pollock, 5; R. H. Murphey, Sr., 7; Arch Porter, 6; Ed Ogilvie, 8; F. D. McIntosh, 5; James Dean, 3; James Henry, 2; Mrs. Eckles, 7; John Y. Hutchison, 3; Asa Hopkins, 4; H. V. Walden, 7; Guy Lawrence, 4; Foster Mason, 5; Dr. Woodard, 3; Mrs. C. C. Benton, 6; Joe Carroll, 5; Thomas Pepper, 3; Major Hubbard, 4; Dr. B. F. Hurt, 8; J. M. Binkley, 6; James A. England, 6; Mr. Stanley, 5; John Clinard, 9; Mrs. Izor, 8; George Garrett, 6; Mrs. A. Precise, 6; William Hooper, 11; A. M. Hooper, 10; Mr. Shaw, 2; D. P. Braden, 2; D. S. Featherstone, 5; H. D. Featherstone, 7; R. W. Patton, 4; James T. Bell, 5; R. W. Thomas, 5; B. C. Murray, 4; Jesse Warren, 3; James Patton, 4; Tom Davis, 3; W. R. Sadler, 3; Robie Bigbee, 5; Alf Pike, 9; Robert Banks, 4; Mrs. Banks, 2; Bunch Hopkins, 4; Foster Solomon, 3; Mrs. Wooldridge, 2; T. M. Henry, 10; The Hoopers, 2; Mrs. McAlister, 4; Capi Biggs, 8; Mr. Parks, 8; Arch Thomas, 9; Mrs. Blackburn, 5; H. V. Harrison, 8; C. J. Davis, 3; Joe Johnson, 4; Mr. Jones, 8; Elias Volner, 5; James Perkerson, 6; William Mathews, 10; Jordan Brown, 7; H. L. Cheatham, 3; J. W. Cullum, 7; Alf Ragsdale, 3; Mr. Hunter, 5; G. W. Davis, 5; John E. Garner, 3; W. B. Adams, 2; William Moore, 8; Harvey Maury, 8; Giles Connell, 3; Thomas Connell, 5; J. W. Virgin, 3; Mr. Pinson, 10; Mr. Crow, 7; D. Pepper, 6; Thomas D. Mathews, 8; B. F. Linebaugh, 4; Mr. Ruffin, 4; P. E. Dycus, 6; Harry England, 6; Mr. Lee, 6; John Goldnamer, 7; W. R. Fall, 5; Mrs. Pepper, 3; Sam Alley, 4; James I. Holman, 3; Dick Polk, 3; Jim Brown, 2; Taylor Izor, 2; William Garrett, 9; J. W. Judd, 6; L. T. Cobbs, 3; Wiley Kirby, 3; Ben Polk, 5; W. T. Peck, 9; Dr. Hicks, 6; Milton Green, 8; A. E. Garner, 5; Charley Palmer, 9; W. B. Lowe, 7; S. D. Ogburn, 6; J. E. Sullivan, 7; A. C. Baggett, 3; B. H. Boone, 3; Mrs. Lowe, 4; George Batts, 4; William Orndorff, 7; Hiram Orndorff, 2; Alex Cohea, 6; G. R. Pearson, 5; Gus Langford, 6; Perry Payne, 6; Robert Anderson, 6; N. T. Langford, 8; Mrs. (Sallie) Anderson, 6; Henry Kirk, 6; John Ragsdale, 3; Cape Nuckols, 5; Mr. (Dan) Durrett, 6; P. M. Fisher, 3; W. C. Denson, 3; Mrs. Porter, 2;



Mr. Branham, 4. Entire white population of Springfield and its suburbs, 668.

Rev. W. C. Denson, whose name appears in the above list, was pastor of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church here in 1877. Mt. Denson was named in his honor.

Prior to 1879 there was no street running from the southwest corner of the Public Square. There was a 16-foot alley which ran from that corner of the Public Square to Spring street (Seventh Avenue, West). A livery stable, owned by James I. Holman stood where Sixth Avenue now runs in front of the United States Postoffice. A. L. Ragsdale purchased from Drs. Tom and George W. Menees on September 29, 1879, the lot on which the postoffice building now stands for the purpose of erecting a hotel thereon. On the same date James I. Holman sold his livery stable lot, which fronted 40 feet on the Public Square, to the town of Springfield, the city officials at that time being: W. W. Garrett, Mayor; P. M. Fisher, C. C. Bell, B. H. Boone, A. L. Ragsdale and James I. Holman. The land occupied by this stable was then declared a public street and the building thereon immediately removed. The Board of Mayor and Alderman on the same date it bought the Holman stable, for the consideration of \$200.00, conveyed to A. L. Ragsdale the 16-foot alley that ran from the Public Square to Spring street, and 79 feet of a 12-foot alley which ran from Locust street to the 16-foot alley.

Mr. Ragsdale immediately began construction of a two-story hotel building which was completed in 1880 and opened that year by him under the name of "The Ragsdale Hotel." This building stood until 1913, when it was sold to the United States and the postoffice building was erected on its site.

There had been a livery stable where now runs Sixth Avenue for many years before Mr. Holman sold the property to the town. Prior to 1873 Mr. G. H. Mason was in business at this stand. In that year Mr. Mason sold the property to W. A. Dudley and wife, Nannie. On June 15, 1874, the Dudleys sold the stable to Mr. Holman.

On the night of August 30, 1880, was perpetrated Robertson county's

most brutal murder.

There lived near Sadlersville, in the 17th civil district, L. S. LaPrade. He was a farmer who was unmarried and lived alone. For many years the neighborhood gossip was to the effect that he kept large sums of money concealed in his house or on his premises.

A band of negroes went to Mr. LaPrade's house on the night he was murdered, and after torturing him for hours in an effort to make him disclose the location of his money, beat him to death and concealed his body in a half dug well on the old Sugg place, later known as the Wash Fletcher place, which is located between Red River and Keysburg, on the old Bailey's Ford road.

The disappearance of Mr. LaPrade caused excitement in his neighborhood, and when two or three of the district's "bad" negroes left for parts unknown, the belief became general that these men knew something about the cause of Mr. LaPrade's disappearance.

A fortune teller in Kentucky furnished the clue which led to the recovery of Mr. LaPrade's body, and as one or more of the negroes who had left the county, had worked at digging this well, a search was at once begun to locate these negroes. Jack Bell was located in Kentucky and after a grueling examination by Hon. Joel B. Fort, made a confession in which he implicated eight other members of his race.

Bell named as his accessories Arch Jameson, Jim Elder, Jim Higgins, Bob Thweat, Lum Small, Sock Mallory, Andrew and William Murphey. All of the accused men were finally arrested and placed in jail at Springfield, but the two ring-leaders, Bell and Jameson, who were the first members of the gang to be arrested, were taken from the jail by a mob on the night of September 11, 1880, and hanged to the limb of a tree which stood near the Springfield and Port Royal road, at Kinney's Station.

The remaining negroes were indicted and their trial was begun at the February term, 1881, of the circuit court, Judge Jo C. Stark presiding. Andrew Duffy and William Murphey turned state's evidence and testified against the other accused men. The trial began on February 14th. That night an ef-

fort was made to take the prisoners from the jail and lynch them. The mob was finally persuaded to let the law take its course.

The trial drag on through the week and the testimony of Duffy and Murphey was of such a nature that when court adjourned, several hundred angry men rushed forward, seized Elder, Higgins, Thweat, Small and Mallory from Sheriff Jas. T. Jones and his deputies and hanged them from the east balcony of the circuit court room. The five dangling bodies were not removed until the following morning.

Bell Academy was organized in 1881. On July 15th of that year Judge Jo C. Stark sold 7½ acres of land to the trustees of the academy, this land being the tract on which the residence of Mrs. George Cook now stands, fronting the south side of Fifth Avenue, East, and running south with Brown street to Eighth Avenue, East. The trustees of the academy were: S. D. Ogburn, C. C. Bell, W. B. Lowe, J. W. Dean, J. S. Brown, R. C. Anderson and Louis T. Cobbs.

The trustees erected on this lot a three-room one-story brick building and the school opened that fall with Dr. W. H. Willett as principal. Dr. Willett was principal of Bell Academy during its entire life, the last session being held in the spring of 1889.

J. W. Dean bought the academy property, tore down the school building and erected on its site the residence now occupied by Mrs. Cook.

While in Springfield Dr. Willett and family resided in the house on the west side of Oak street that has been the family home of Dr. and Mrs. A. A. McClanahan for 50 years. Dr. Willett sold this property when he left Springfield in the fall of 1889.

The firms doing business in Springfield during the decade beginning with 1880 were:

Anderson Bros. (Andrew and Dave), groceries, hardware, etc.; J. H. Cartwright, dry goods, notions and shoes; Mrs. John Goldnamer, dry goods and clothing; Henry Bros. (Jas. T. and Gus A.), hardware and implements; T. M. Henry, furniture, paints and oils; William Hooper, stoves and tinware; Hurt & Tanner (Robert and Chas. T. Tanner),



drugs; W. T. Peck, dry goods, clothing and shoes; G. R. Pearson, groceries; S. Rosenberg, dry goods and clothing; W. E. Ryan & Co., groceries, hardware, fertilizers and implements; Davis (G. W.) & Ogburn (S. D.), groceries, hardware and queensware; Sadler (W. R.) & Huey (Carroll), groceries, and Jesse Warren, groceries.

Chas. J. Davis, insurance; D. A. Payne & Co., commercial fertilizers; Oliver & Allen, carriage manufac-

turers; L. O. Connell, lumber and building materials; N. T. Langford and S. T. Woodard, undertakers; D. R. Featherston and T. A. Izor, liverymen.

W. B. Cartwright and A. L. Ragsdale ran the town's two hotels. S. J. Alley and H. V. Maury were harness-makers; J. M. Binkley and H. C. Izor were the town blacksmiths; J. A. England had a cobbler shop. William Trevathan had a meat market, and Robert Benton

ran a barber shop. The wholesale whiskey dealers were J. S. Brown, J. R. Bridges & Co., J. W. Stark & Co. and Daniel Woodard. The retail whiskey dealers were A. C. Baggett, Miles Blackburn, A. Cohea, William DeBerry, H. C. Fletcher and D. S. Pepper. Other firms that entered business in Springfield in the late years of the 1880's are mentioned in my articles on "The Springfield I Have Known During the Last 46 Years."

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